



SOCCER ACTION

JUGOSLOVENSKA
SCENA:15

VIVA ITALIA:14

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ
ΣΕΛΙΣ:15

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Mates meet head-on



Old mates became new foes at Connor Reserve last Sunday when Preston Makodonia drew 1-1 with Footscray J.U.S.T. On opposite sides were Jim Tansey and Gary Cole (pictured above), former Heidelberg team mates, making their debuts with new clubs. Tansey switched to J.U.S.T. only last week, while Cole joined Makodonia during the recent Buffalo Gold Summer Cup in Victoria. Picture by LES SHORROCK

Who'll be national coach?

Tomorrow, March 8, is when the ASF will appoint — or re-appoint — its national coach.

It's anything but a secret that the incumbent, Les Scheinflug, has a fight on his hands. Frank Arok has a strong tip to take over.

Arok has repeatedly told newsmen that he wouldn't seek the appointment — but "would be happy to accept if it were offered."

Now, we believe, such an offer has

been made — by at least some influential ASF officials.

Ultimately it will be Sir Arthur George's preference that will swing the votes.

The veteran president knows how to put up a convincing argument — if he wants to be personally involved.

Rumor has it that Sir Arthur has lately been convinced that Australia's best chance of reaching the World Cup finals in Mexico is under Frank Arok.

— ANDREW DETTRE



Raul Blanco (left) with national coach Les Scheinflug (right) and team manager Andrew Lederer (centre).

Sacking Scheinflug would be a 'tragedy': Blanco

"One of the greatest tragedies in Australian soccer would be to replace Les Scheinflug as the national coach."

That was Raul Blanco's comment about the alleged move by the A.S.F. The Melita Eagles coach is Scheinflug's assistant at national team level and has been since 1981.

"Since the departure of Rale Rasic various coaches have been tried in the position but the results were never there. However, since Scheinflug took over, the team gained more credibility and respect. It is not easy to compete, at either youth or senior level, against the opponents we have had and Les managed to obtain a lot of good results with both teams."

Blanco was offered the position as assistant coach before the World Youth Championships in Australia in 1981. He was asked by Scheinflug to assist in the preparation of the youth team.

"I owe Les a lot because at the time I had a bad slip, and after being relegated with St. George and poor results at Marconi, there were not many people who believed in me then."

Blanco's coaching career started when Rale Rasic asked him to become his assistant at Pan Hellenic (today's Olympic) after he had hung up his boots at the club in 1974.

When Rasic left the club in 1975, Blanco took over as first-team coach and in 1977 he moved to his present club, Melita Eagles, who at the time were in the Second Division. Later he was coach at St. George from 1979 to 1980 and in 1981 he had a stint as the

coach of Marconi before going for a four-month holiday to his native Argentina.

When he returned he had one year at Sydney City as Eddie Thompson's assistant. He signed a two-year contract with Melita Eagles in 1983 and continues what he calls a wonderful relationship with the club in 1984.

"Melita have the reputation of a well organized club and although we cannot spend money on new players we will still do well. I aim at winning the championship but then so does every coach in the country so, to be realistic, I think that we will be happy to finish in the top six."

Blanco likes the new N.S.L. set-up because he thinks that changes were necessary.

He speaks from experience as he had a rich soccer career, which started with the juniors of Racing in Argentina.

He came here at the age of 25 to play with the top Sydney side Prague in 1967. He stayed there until 1973 and during those six years played alongside such stars as Les Scheinflug who was also the skipper and fellow midfielder Jimmy Rooney to whom he refers as "The greatest soccer thoroughbred ever to come to this country."

Other great players there at the time were Paul Molnar, a Czechoslovakian World Cup player and Luis Gauto, a skilful Argentinian. He had the privilege of being coached by Josef Venglos who became the national coach of Czechoslovakia on his return from Australia.

By KORNEL KAMPEAN

YUGOSLAV STAR TO PLAY HERE

Dusan Nikolic — Red Star Belgrade midfielder who is about to join Footscray J.U.S.T.



Peter Lewis — switched from Green Gully to Melbourne Croatia for \$14,000 on the eve of the NSL's kick-off.



By LAURIE SCHWAB

Steve Winn and Peter Lewis were the last-minute recruits before the NSL kicked off last Sunday, but it's Footscray J.U.S.T. which has stolen the limelight with a spirited late run on the transfer market.

J.U.S.T. expects Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dusan Nikolic to arrive from Yugoslavia within about a week.

It also is negotiating for goalkeeper Ray Dunlop of Brisbane City, and hopes to get another top-line Yugoslav player as a guest.

And J.U.S.T. signed Jim Tansey, Heidelberg's player-coach last season, for \$5000 last Thursday.

Nikolic, 31, a tough midfielder who also scores goals, played against Australia, Arsenal and Glasgow Celtic in the "World of Soccer" tournament won by Celtic in Melbourne in 1977.

He joined Red Star straight from school, played for Yugoslavia's national youth team 30 times, and made his senior debut in 1973.

Nikolic has been recommended to J.U.S.T. by the great Dragan Djadic, now one of the leading administrators of Red Star.

Meanwhile, J.U.S.T. also has signed forward Chris Bekiaris on a free transfer from South Melbourne Hellas.

Ray Dunlop, who played in goal for Hearts in the Scottish Premier Division, was flown to Melbourne last week and is expected to be signed in time to play against Brisbane City on Sunday.

Steve Winn, 24, who scored five goals in 10 games for Marconi last season, switched to Heidelberg for close to \$15,000 the night before Heidelberg's opening match against Hellas.

Winn played for Rotherham United and Torquay in England — but \$15,000 for a player who has made only 10 Australian appearances, must be some sort of record.

Peter Lewis switched to Melbourne Croatia for \$14,000 the day before Croatia lost 1-2 to Juventus, and Lewis surprisingly was used as a defensive midfielder, in place of Jozo Antolovic who was out injured.

His arrival at Croatia means sweeper Keith Adams will move into midfield.

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Dusan Nikolic with the Red Star team of 1977. Back row: Kajganic, Savic, Lukic, Jelkic, Muslin, Filipovic, Jovanovic, Bogicevic, Stojanovic. Front row: Radovic, Baralic, Sestic, Stamenkovic, Novkovic, Nikolic, Babic.

Farina, Sermanni Arrows at last

Frank Farina and Tommy Sermanni both pulled on the new-look colors for Canberra Arrows on Sunday — but not before a week of feverish behind-the-scenes activity.

The Farina saga dragged on for weeks after Farina's ex-club Maccabea in Brisbane, whacked a \$20,000 transfer fee on the 20-year-old's head — a fee later reduced on appeal by Farina to \$15,000 by the Queensland Soccer Federation.

Still Farina was unhappy — saying he spent but a month with the club as a 16-year-old.

Farina's father offered \$5000 to buy out his son's contract. Maccabea refused — just as it had Canberra's pitifully poor \$3000 offer.

With but 72 hours remaining before the game, Canberra's board acted — like lightning and the deal was done within 24 hours.

Canberra offered Maccabea just over \$9000 — and Farina was Canberra's player.

By PETER WINDSOR



● Frank Farina, sporting Canberra's new strip, flanked by Go Lotto hostesses.

Until then the battle had taken a nasty turn — as Farina was set to go to court.

And Sermanni? The ex-Marconi player came to the Arrows via a holiday in England. And hereby hangs another tale.

The Arrows were in dispute with Marconi over Sermanni's transfer fee — and when they eventually coughed up \$10,000

Crino hurt

South Melbourne Hellas star Oscar Crino twisted his knee badly at training on Monday and may miss the next two rounds of the NSL. Hellas meets Green Gully at Green Gully Reserve in St Albans on Sunday.

Sermanni's visa had expired. Now a big pat on the back for Immigration officials Janet Sekavs (in Canberra) and Miss Elaine Maloney (in London), for expediting his re-entry.

Sermanni, at 29, is highly rated by Collins. The midfielder began his career with Scottish club Albion Rovers, then played for Blackpool and Torquay in England.

JANKOVICS SEEKS TRANSFER

Mark Jankovics may be on the move from Marconi.

The central striker, with one year of his contract still to go, is on the lookout for another club. Following the arrival of David Lowe at Marconi, it looks like Lowe, Brown and Licata will be the front line for 1984.

Steve Winn has gone to Heidelberg, but with only room for three players up front, it looks

ominous for Jankovics. An idea of using Jankovics as sweeper has died down.

Blacktown City, still suffering from an acute goal-shy forward line would do well to buy Jankovics. With Phil O'Connor and Jankovics Blacktown would think about taking more than just a mere back seat in this year's NSL.

— ALEX VESIC

Network 0/28 still is tops for soccer ...

As Australian soccer and the National League enter their most exciting period in 1984, Network 0/28 has announced an even more extensive coverage of the game.

On Sundays at 7.30 pm, viewers can see the new season of "Match Of The Day" with Les Murray presenting highlights from two top clashes in the Australian and National Conferences. The weekly program also will cover the special Inter-Conference play-offs throughout the season as well as offer an extensive look at the excitement of the 1984 NSL Cup series.

"Match of the Day" kicked off last Sunday and this Sunday will feature highlights of the Australian Conference clash between St George and Canberra and the National Conference clash between Green Gully Ajax and South Melbourne Hellas (previews at right).

And on Mondays at 4.30 pm, the network welcomes a new program called "On The Ball". Each week, "On The

Ball" will provide an in-depth analysis of the previous week-end's round of National League fixtures with highlights from all matches played plus news and interviews. Assisted by commentators Mike Hill in Sydney and Laurie Schwab in Melbourne, Les Murray will make "On The Ball" mandatory viewing for all soccer fans.

A preview of coming NSL matches is an important part of Network 0/28's "International Sports Magazine" program on Friday evenings at 7.00 pm.

The 30-minute show will look at fixtures in the coming round of the NSL with team news and interviews to keep viewers up to date with what is happening in the National and Australian Conferences.

During 1984, soccer fans also will see top action from

the world's major domestic and international competitions in "World Soccer" on Saturdays at 5.30 pm (repeated Fridays at 4.30 pm). This has proven itself one of the station's most popular programs with all the news, action and highlights from the soccer world.

Other special events on 0/28 during 1984 include live satellite telecasts of both the European Cup-Winner's Cup from Basle on May 16, and the coveted European Champion's Cup in Rome on May 30. Both games, a regular annual feature of 0/28's soccer presentation, promise action and excitement with Europe's top club sides involved.

Network 0/28 is the station to watch for all the top soccer from Australia and overseas.

Network 0/28 and soccer — a winning combination!



Paul Lewis in action for Green Gully Ajax



Mark Barton celebrates a St George goal

Angry Ajax to lose to Hellas

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Paul Lewis won't get the chance to play for South Melbourne Hellas against his club Green Gully Ajax at Green Gully Reserve this Sunday if Ajax president Guy Spiteri gets his way.

"Hellas offered us \$18,000 last Friday along with the proceeds from an end-of-season friendly between our clubs but despite the amazing generosity of Hellas we're not about to let a player go when other clubs have bid \$25,000 for him," said Spiteri.

"If Hellas thinks that we're going to give them a ready-made replacement for Charlie Egan on Sunday, they had better think again."

It was an angry Spiteri who spoke to me late last Sunday night, an hour after a hurriedly convened meeting with Lewis, who is transfer listed at \$30,000 and is seeking a hearing before the VSF Appeals Board to try and get the fee significantly lowered.

"I can't tell you about the conversation I had with Paul Lewis because you couldn't print it due to libel laws," said Spiteri.

"Just let's say that Green Gully isn't about to get ridden rough-shod over by the great South Melbourne Hellas."

Well, perhaps not over the Lewis saga. However, on the fine contours of Green Gully Reserve on Sunday, the blue-shirted men of Hellas will be expected to beat Ajax, whose team plans for 1984 have gone away due to Peter Lewis joining Melbourne Croatia and Paul Lewis adamant that he wants to join Hellas.

Although Egan, sent off last weekend, will be out, Hellas looks too well drilled for Ajax and has, in Doug Brown and Oscar Crino, players of great flair and unpredictability, players who can change the course of a contest in an instant.

Steve Wooddin, Hellas's transfer listed New Zealand international, could come into the side alongside Brown up front. That seems to be the most obvious move for coach Len McKendry to make, how-

ever, he may prefer to use young Jim Kalambokis, who had a few runs in the Buffalo Gold Summer Cup.

Ajax will be banking on David Smallman, Kenny Smart and Bobby Toal to find a path to the Hellas goal. Toal's clash with Chris Kalitafidis

should be a match highlight. Toal loves to take men on, while Kalitafidis, virtually resurrected by McKendry, has been very consistent this year.

When you look through the Hellas line-up, it's very hard to imagine it not claiming both points against Ajax.

Canberra no match for St. George?

Canberra sits on top of the Australian Conference ladder. Until it travels to St. George Stadium on Sunday to meet Frank Arok's men, a vastly different proposition from the Wollongong wolf-cubs it whipped 4-0 last weekend.

Tommy Serrani and Frank Farina certainly have added bite to Canberra, however, we'll see the difference between playing against boys and squaring up to the more experienced and well drilled St. George at 3 pm this weekend.

No doubt confidence among Canberra players will be sky high and coach Doug Collins will be impressing on his side that it has little to lose here, knowing full well that St. George will go into the game as favorites.

Rightly so, for Saints, in Dez Marton, Robbie Slater and attacking midfielder Mark Barton, look far too strong for Canberra. Indeed, had Barton made more of a couple of stunning off-the-ball runs into the Sydney Olympic area last weekend, Saints would have won with ease.

Barton's ability to find space, coming from deep, inside the Canberra area will pose the visitors all sorts of problems.

And Marton, that endless goal machine, will be keen to open his account this league season.

It all spells doom for Canberra.

Slater, in patches, was most impressive against Olympic. Not only with his close control and running ability but also with his vision and disposal. He'll give Canberra defenders Paul Ontong and Roy Jones a lot to think about as he switches from wing to wing.

Serrani and Steve Bryant give Canberra much needed experience and quality in midfield but against Saints' Peter Stone, John O'Shea and Barton, the visitors won't win enough of the ball in this area to make inroads into the Saints' defence.

As if Marton, Barton and Slater aren't enough to contend with, how does Canberra plan to stop the aggressive overlapping of St. George right back David Skeen?

A word about Skeen. When will he be recognised as senior Soccerroo level? His technique is as good as any right back in the land and his stamina knows no limits. He's some player.

Farina, Marko Perinovic and Alan Rams, while all players of promise, as a unit lack the experience to break down St. George's steady and competent defence of the O'Shea brothers — Rob and Mike — David Ratcliffe and Skeen.

Collins though is on the right track. He'll develop some of the fine youngsters at his disposal but on Sunday, let's just put the sojourn to St. George Stadium down to experience. It'll be a learning situation for the younger Canberra players as St. George wins its first league game for 1984.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

...with exclusive rights to Soccerroo matches

0-28 will provide a comprehensive, exclusive television coverage of Australia's major soccer internationals in a new three-year agreement signed recently between the station and the ASF.

Along with the weekly round-up and highlights from the new look NSL 0-28 now has exclusive television rights to matches featuring Australia's Soccerroos at both full international and under-12 level. Games to be screened in coming months include the Soccerroos in action against club sides from Scotland (Glasgow Rangers), England (Manchester United or Nottingham Forest), Italy (Fiorentina) and Greece (Aris Sa-

lonika) during May and June.

Later fixtures to be seen on 0-28 include the Australian team's tour of China and Europe in December, another series of games against overseas club sides in June 1985, plus the vital Oceania Group qualifying matches in the World Cup series beginning later this year.

This exclusive television agreement between the ASF and Network 0-28 further cements the relationship be-

tween the two bodies and will allow viewers to see more top international soccer than ever before.

"We have always supported the game in this country with our NSL highlights and we followed the young Soccerroos during last year's World Youth Championships in Mexico, and the Soccerroos' success in the Merlion Cup. Now we can provide an even better coverage," said Mr John Rowley, 0-28's executive producer of sport.

Our goal is to thrill you with Australia's finest soccer.

It's a big year coming up for Australian soccer — locally and internationally.

The World Cup qualifying games kick off in September.

But first up, the N.S.L. New faces, new names and maybe just a few could force their way into the national squad.

We'll be there right through 1984 with all the soccer coverage you want.

Catch all the highlights of the best games on Match of the Day, Sunday at 7.30

Also, On The Ball — Mondays at 4.30
International Sports Magazine — Fridays at 7.00

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**NETWORK
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Bringing the world back home

KOVACIC has 'turned old' while waiting

Some eight or nine years ago, a breath of fresh air breezed into Sydney soccer. Here was a young, talented team built on unknown kids, full of exuberance, a playful joy de vivre, visibly enjoying themselves as they took on the high and mighty of the day.

The team was Sydney Croatia and its innovative, imaginative coach was former Prague star Tony Schwartz, well pedigreed in the once classic, elegant Viennese soccer school, descendants of the famed "Wundermannschaft" of Hugo Meisl.

Several things have happened since. Schwarz, a quiet, introverted, softly spoken fellow, has allowed himself to be elbowed out of the game, partly helped along by a serious road accident and protracted compensation case. Today he is employed by Sydney's swank Hakoah Club — as manager of the popular cardroom. He has nothing to do with soccer either at Hakoah or outside of it — an enormous pity has at long last emerged from the cocoon soccer authorities built for the club. It is now in the National League, under its proper name and banner — something several ASF officials predicted "would never happen".

Meanwhile, Croatia has at long last emerged from the cocoon soccer authorities built for the club. It is now in the National League, under its proper name and banner — something several ASF officials predicted "would never happen".

Croatia has been stirring up heated controversy ever since the 1960s simply because of its name. Croatian emigres have been clamoring for the independence of their homeland from the collective entity



Marjan Kovacic

Liddell back for J.U.S.T.

By RICKY ROSSO

Brisbane City stopper Frank Liddell will be back from suspension for this weekend's clash against Footscray JUST at Schintler Reserve.

Liddell missed last weekend's opening intra-conference challenge match against Brisbane Lions after he was sent-off in a XXXX pre-season game at Perry Park a week earlier.

Liddell, by far City's most outstanding and consistent player last season, was sent from the field by referee Dave Nugent after an incident involving Ipswich and former Lions striker Ron Millman.

Millman reportedly needed stitches in his mouth after the match.

Liddell was given a two-match suspension by the Queensland Soccer Federation disciplinary committee.

He was allowed to serve one of the matches in another Queensland pre-season competition in which City had entered — Grange Thistle's Coca-Cola Bottlers tournament — but still was forced to miss last Sunday's NSL clash against Lions.

In addition to the suspension, Liddell, a former Hearts player was fined by the club.

And coach Joe Gilroy showed his displeasure over the incident and hitting out at Liddell by saying before last weekend's match: "He will not be hard to replace as he was not playing that well at any rate."

But the send-off has left a bitter taste all-round for the two Brisbane NSL clubs, which join the 10 local Premier League sides in the XXXX tournament.



Frank Liddell

It is the second year running that one of the National League sides has had a player sent-off. And as the tournament overlaps with the start of the NSL season, there has been lost him for a key fixture.

Lions last year had stopper John Sime sent off and were forced to bring in youngster Alan Hunter. Fortunately, Hunter rose to the challenge and ended up making the position his own.

But City and Lions officials, who claim they only enter the XXXX tournament to help the QSF attract crowds, say they are being penalised.

"We are not condoning what the players do to get sent off because they know the rules. But the club and the team is being penalised by losing a player for an NSL fixture which could not be further removed from the Queensland pre-season competition.

"Some alternative arrangement will have to be worked out before next year," one club official said.

By ANDREW DETTRE

of Yugoslavia. Our soccer authorities, no doubt experts in international affairs, have decided that such independence aspirations were unjustified.

And so, over the years, they compelled the club to adopt a series of meaningless names: Metro Adriatic, South Sydney and others.

Now, however, in 1984, economic necessity prevailed over prejudice: Croatia — as Croatia — has become acceptable, much the same way as have Olympic, Marconi and others in recent years. In fact, the NSL expects Croatia to be a stimulant to the dormant crowds. In the Australian Conference only Olympic is likely to outgun Croatia in attendance figures.

★ ★ ★

Apart from club officials, the two men most thrilled about Sydney Croatia's renaissance are coach Atilla Abonyi and star midfielder Marjan Kovacic.

Abonyi, after his glorious St George days, finished his career at Croatia, then coached it to several titles. Now, after a brief detour via Melita and Canberra, Abonyi is back with the club and is looking as a "new Frank Arak" — a full-time coach, manager, publicist, organiser and factotum devoting all his waking hours to soccer.

If there is a young, ambitious coach in Sydney who can re-create the Croatia style of 1976-78 and emulate Tony Schwarz, it's Abonyi who, as a player and a coach, always put emphasis on skill, entertainment and spectacle as against the dull, negative "commitment" and "workload" syndromes.

No doubt the man who can help him achieve his targets, perhaps more than anyone else, is the "veteran" — at 26 — of the team, Marjan Kovacic.

When I first watched him in his initial senior season, in 1975, he impressed enormously: his tall, lithe frame, speed, immaculate control and "feel" for goal stamped him as a future star, possibly an international. He fitted snugly into the Croatia of "Schwarzknaben" — alongside such bright young hopefuls as John Davies, Dudaric, Blackburn, Coleman and others. He was a mere 17 then.

Today, nine years and nine State League seasons later, with the same club, Marjan is the "wise old man" of the side — hoping to be fit by mid-March or so.

"I missed several weeks' training because of my dispute with the club over terms," he says mournfully. "When I went on against Marconi, in the Ampol Cup play-off, I felt sluggish, slow and heavy."

"But now, everything is fine; we have reached a compromise with the club. Not quite what I wanted but more than they had offered. I was ready to join Melbourne Croatia if my own club didn't want me."

"Actually, I was flattered and pleased that Melbourne Croatia were after me; I would have been thrilled to join them. I do hope they'll understand that my first preference had to be my own club: one doesn't snap off long ties so easily."

'It's bloody time'

Since he was last in the limelight years ago, a thing or two did happen to Marjan. First he finished college and became a graphic designer working for large advertising agencies — just the kind of precision-based job for which this bright, well-mannered young man with an intricate soccer brain seems suited.

Then he got married, to Louise, a Croatian-born girl and they are expecting their first child in three months. Marjan himself was born in Croatia, too, in the tiny village of Nova Bukovica: ("Please," he pleads, "make sure you write Croatia, not Yugoslavia.")

and came here with his parents in 1971.

And now, he feels, he and his team have something to prove: that Croatia's place should have been always in the NSL all these years.

"It's bloody time," he bursts out. "The NSL wasn't doing any justice to soccer by keeping us in the State League so long, on the flimsiest of grounds."

"Of course, we'll have adjustment problems — we all know that and Attila Abonyi is constantly hammering it into us. In the State League we had to peak for four or five matches a year; in the NSL every game will be a mortal battle. In most matches we will be the underdogs, the newcomers, the babes. And that's fine."

"We have enough talent in the team to do fairly well, probably better than most people expect. The adjustment we have to make is not in skill, not even in pace, but in mentality; no more easybeats during the season as was the case in the State League."

"Abonyi, like Tony Schwarz before him, is a master of building up the confidence of young players. He encourages them to think for themselves; we play without the straight jackets of methods and systems."

"Abonyi, like me, believes that soccer must be enjoyed; soccer alone isn't enough. Of course, at the moment our players are largely unknown nationally. But whoever in Sydney heard of Cole, Campbell, Selemdis, Tansay and others before 1977? Stars are not born, they emerge with increasing velocity — and I think quite a few of our players will prove this."

"No? Well, I'm the veteran of the team now — at 26. I hope to be of some influence in midfield where I like to create and set the pattern of play."

"We have been waiting a long time to get the chance to prove ourselves in top company; we won't let it slip through our fingers."

To the editor

SIR — Branko Buljevic's comments relating to the state of the game (8/2 Soccer Action) are positive and should be used constructively.

Soccer is on course for financial disaster! It is time to introduce regulations to protect all those who genuinely love the game. Signing-on fees should be limited to a percentage of transfer fee and only applicable in the first year of contract, not every year.

Transfer fees should be set by using the following guidelines: (A) \$ value of player when purchased plus

(B) signing on fees. Clubs must not fall for the trap of keeping up with the Jones'. Clubs built on a sound financial structure are struggling to compete on the market with clubs who are overcommitting themselves. Success cannot be bought or built on shaky foundations.

The recipe for long term success at club level is compiled in the following order: 1. Professional administration. 2. Adequate facilities (both social and playing). 3. Strong membership; 4. Sponsorship.

On the positive side, clubs with foresight are allocating more of their resources to junior soccer. Courses for junior coaches are being well attended which augers well for the future of the game.

I honestly believe that clubs and players will continue to be exploited until strict guidelines are introduced. In the meantime the mercenaries and poor administrators of our game rule programs.

NORRIS FORD

Coach, Sunbury United ex-Slavie, Waverley City and Prahran

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KAT'S CORNER

with PETER KATHOLOS



A boom in boycotts?

"SOCCER STRIKE" screamed the headlines last week, referring to the entire Sydney Hakoah squad walking out at training in protest at the club's failure to resign five of its stars — Steve O'Connor, Tony Pezzano, Alex Robertson, Willie Murray and Grant Lee.

I'm afraid we could see more such boycotts in future, as more clubs stick with the youngsters rather than older players, in order to cut costs.

This only can bring down the standard of our soccer. If all clubs followed the same path, crowd interest eventually would disappear, as there would be no stars to attract the fans.

I quote Andrew Dettre in last week's "Soccer Action": "Tradesmen we have enough. What our soccer needs is a few exceptional individuals to drag us a step or two further up the ladder."

I wonder if all the clubs really are thinking along the same lines?

Some prefer to have all players on an equal footing so they can pay them all equally.

And if someone has the potential to become a "star", why don't coaches give them the chance to go ahead and so so?

Melbourne tops again

South Melbourne Hellas and Croatia drew a crowd of 12,000 to their Buffalo Summer Cup final in Melbourne, while St.

George Budapest and Sydney Hakoah could muster only about 4000 to the NSW Ampol Cup final.

And so Melbourne comes up trumps once more. In the Victorian match, Charlie Egan and John Yzen-dorn starred, and Oscar Crino looks like having a tremendous year after winning the Buffalo Cup Player of the Series award.

It's also good to see Chris Kalifatidis back in defence for Hellas, as the Greek fans now have someone to identify with again. I hope Arthur Xanthopoulos recovers soon from his injury, to please the fans even more.

Hellas looks destined for a good season, under coach Len McKendry, and so too does St. George, under Frank Arak. Sydney Olympic also will be up there with the best.

APIA fans absent

Stars of the past turned out in the Terry Butler testimonial match between APIA and Sydney Olympic last week.

John Doyle showed his old brilliance at 35-plus, Dave McQuire was in goal and John Russell in defence.

Jim Ziras, now with APIA, played a sound game and looks set to show Olympic it made a mistake in letting him go.

In a match whose result was of no significance, it was nevertheless sad to see less than 1000 people playing tribute to Terry Butler, who has spent 15 years with APIA.

Considering that more than 800 were Greeks, what's happened to the "loyal" APIA fans?

For the record, APIA won 2-0, with a goal by Kerry Kaban and a penalty converted by the man himself — Terry Butler.



Terry Butler



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NOON UNDECIDED

Brisbane Lions coach Harry Noon predicts it could take another month before he settles on a team.

Noon has only been at Richards a month after being appointed to take over from Simon Kistemaker who left Lions in the lurch by not returning from Europe.

In that time the former NSW State League coach has trialled five interstate players as well as juggling the squad he inherited.

Just the race to prepare his side in time for the start of the season.

"I am still in the process of sorting out players and we need at least another month," Noon said last week.

So far the players Noon has trialled include former Sydney Olympic striker Clive Eaton, Croydon's David Cork, Canberra's Phil Redmond, Blacktown United goalkeeper Wayne Evans and Juventus Pioneer's (Tasmania) John Charlton.

Eaton decided against a move north but Cork has been given to Lions on a free loan, and Evans who only has a small transfer fee, also are likely to be offered places at Richards.



CABAN TOP RECRUIT, DUNN TO PLAY?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Robbie Dunn's complicated transfer to Makedonia is expected to be completed in time for him to play against Newcastle at International Sports Centre on Saturday.

Dunn comes to Makedonia from West Adelaide Hellas, via Bayswater (WA) and Azurri (SA).

Makedonia needs Dunn as its other central defender, Ian Dobson, is suspended after being sent off against J.U.S.T. Newcastle started the season with a win, and even though it has lost five star players, it should be capable of giving Makedonia a tough game at home, even though it will miss injured David Jones.

Canberra started the season in fine style by hitting four against Wollongong, but even with brilliant Frank Farina in its team, Canberra will be hard pressed to worry mighty St George at St George Stadium.

Terry Greedy, back temporarily in Saints' goal, last week helped them complete their 19th successive match without defeat.

Juventus (Vic) hopes to have Vince Bannon back against West Adelaide Hellas at Olympic Park No. 2, but even without him, should have too many guns for the visitors.

The exclusion of Peter Katholos from the Sydney Olympic team is one of the hottest stories of the league. Voted Australian Player of the Year in 1982, Katholos was used only as a late substitute against St George Budapest, but he may force his way back for games in which there is more emphasis on attacking the opposition, rather than restraining it.

Newcastle v Preston Makedonia at International Sports Centre, 2.30 pm.

SUNDAY

APIA Leichhardt v Melita Eagles at Hanson Park, 3 pm.
Marconi v Blacktown at Marconi Stadium, 3 pm.
St George v Canberra at St George Stadium, 3 pm.
Penrith City v Sydney Croatia at Cook Park, 3 pm.
Wollongong v Sydney City at Wollongong Showgrounds, 3 pm.
Adelaide City v Melbourne Croatia at Norwood Oval, 2.30 pm.
Brisbane Lions v Sydney Olympic at Richmond, 3 pm.
Brunswick Juventus v West Adelaide at Olympic Park No. 2, 3 pm.
Footscray J.U.S.T. v Brisbane City at Schintler Reserve, 3 pm.
Green Gully Ajax v South Melbourne Hellas at Green Gully Reserve, 3 pm.
Heidelberg v Sunshine-George Cross at Olympic Village, 3 pm.

Will we, therefore, see Katholos back against Brisbane Lions in Brisbane?

Melbourne Croatia coach Terry Hennessy used new recruit Peter Lewis in midfield last week, but is expected to shift him to the centre of defence against Adelaide City Juventus in Adelaide.

If Lewis partners Sean Patton at the back, Keith Adams, currently playing as sweeper, will move into the midfield. But Croatia needs improved performances from Josip Biskic and Steve Gojovic to break down the mighty Adelaide Juventus defence of Neville Flounders and Bugsy Nyskohus.

The only local derby in Melbourne is between Heidelberg, Alexander and Sunshine-George Cross at the Olympic Village.

The young Heidelberg players should outrun their older opponents, and thus present more scoring chances to recruit Steve Winn — but don't underestimate George Cross.

APIA controlled its match against Marconi to a greater extent than its 1-0 victory may indicate, so it should prove too strong for Melita Eagles. Kerry Caban, APIA's new forward from Newcastle, could prove to be one of the star recruits of 1984, even though he's been largely ignored by the media.

Marconi gets its chance to make up for that loss to APIA when it meets Blacktown in a local derby at Toongabbie, but after its 1-1 draw with Sydney Hakoah, Blacktown certainly isn't any pushover. Goalkeeper Barry Hoare is in fine form, and he'll make it difficult for David Lowe and Rod Brown to break through.

Footscray J.U.S.T., strengthened by Jim Tansey from Heidelberg, and expecting more reinforcements (see page one), may have striker Jamie Paton back against Brisbane City at Schintler Reserve on Sunday, and should win this one.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sth Melb. Hellas	1	0	0	2	0	2
Juventus (Vic)	1	0	0	2	1	2
Adel. City Juventus	1	0	1	0	2	2
Brisbane Lions	1	0	0	1	0	2
Footscray JUST	0	1	0	1	1	1
Preston Makedonia	0	1	0	1	1	1
Green Gully	0	1	0	0	1	1
Sam. George Cross	0	1	0	0	1	1
Melb. Croatia	0	0	1	1	2	0
West Adel. Hellas	0	0	1	0	1	0
Brisbane City	0	0	1	0	1	0
Heidelberg-Alexander	0	0	1	0	2	0

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Canberra Arrows	1	0	0	4	0	2
Newcastle KB Utd	1	0	0	2	0	2
Syd. Croatia	1	0	0	2	1	2
APIA Leichhardt	1	0	0	1	0	2
Sydney C. Hakoah	0	1	0	1	1	1
Blacktown City	0	1	0	1	1	1
Syd. Olympic	0	1	0	1	1	1
St. George Budapest	0	1	0	0	1	1
Melita Eagles	0	0	1	1	2	0
Marconi	0	0	1	0	1	0
Penrith	0	0	1	0	2	0
Wollongong	0	0	1	0	4	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 2 (Crino 80th, Zzen-dorn penalty 84th) HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 0 at Middle Park. Crowd about 11,000. Ratings by Laurie Schwab:

HELLAS: Laumets 9 — Russell 8, Zzen-dorn 8, Blair 7, Kalifatidis 7, Davidson 8, Crino 7, Halford 8, Murphy 8 — Brown 8, Egan sent off, 35th. Coach: Len McKendry.
HEIDELBERG: Oliver 9 — McKie 8, Yankos 8, Macleod 8 (Krajacic 78th), Gabrielson 7 (Matasiz 85th) — Selemidis 7, Angele 7, Salvo 7, Petersen 7 — Winn 6, Patterson 7. Coach: Brian Garvey.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Oliver (H), 5. Laumets (SM), 4. Murphy (SM), 3. Brown (SM), 2. Halford (SM), 1. Yankos (H).

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1 (Cole pen. 79th) FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 1 (Lujic 42nd) at Connor Reserve. Crowd about 4000. Ratings by Ken Kontra:

MAKEDONIA: Potter 7 — Opanisic 6, Dobson 6 (sent off 44th), McMillan 8, Petrovski 6 — Iliiski 5 (Ollertons 68th), Lucchesi 6, Odzakov 5 — Heys 5 (Livingstone 74th), Cole 6, Campbell 7. Coach: Peter Ollertons.
J.U.S.T.: Tsigaras 7 — Taylor 7, McDowell 8, Tansey 8, Tutill 7 — Curovic 6, O'Donnell 7, Hazabent 7 — Carroll 7, Belic 7, Lujic 8. Coach: Bobby McLachlan.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Curovic (JUST), 5. Tansey (JUST), 4. McMillan (Mak), 3. McDowell (JUST), 2. Lujic (JUST), 1. Belic (JUST).

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 0 GREEN GULLY 0 at Chaplin Reserve. Crowd about 2500. Ratings by Peter Desjardis:

GEORGE CROSS: Contini 5 — Bennett 7, O'Reilly 9, Richardson 6, Taylor 6 — Stevenson 7, Pate 7 (Uvanovic 52nd), MacLaren 7 — McGorran 8, Glider 8, Latif 8. Coach: Tommy Traynor.
GREEN GULLY: Denys 7 — P. Beranic 8, Kremers 6, Cannell 9, Hogben 8 — Wade 7, Vassallo 8, Smallman 6, Williams 7 — Smart 7, Toal 8. Coach: Jimmy Rooney.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Cannell (GG), 5. O'Reilly (G.Cr), 4. Hogben (GG), 3. Latif (G.Cr), 2. Toal (GG), 1. Glider (G.Cr).

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd 4131. Ratings by Andrew Dettre:

ST GEORGE: Greedy 7 — Skoen 8, Ratcliffe 9, M. O'Shea 8, R. O'Shea 7 — Stone 8, Barton 6 (Hicoy 75 min), J. O'Shea 8, Slater 6, Koczka 6 (Petrovski 57 min), Marton 7. Coach: F. Arok.
OLYMPIC: Wilson 7 — Rogers 8, Dakos 8, Lambropoulos 7, Jennings 8 — Phillips 7, Raskopoulos 7, Patikas 8 — Koussas 6 (Katholos 84 min), Soper 6 (Kalantzis 84 min), Pattalis 7. Coach: M. Schaefer.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Ratcliffe (StG), 5. Dakos (SG), 4. Skoen (SG), 3. Patikas (SG), 2. J. O'Shea (SG), 1. Jennings (SG).

CANBERRA ARROWS 4 (Farina 23rd and 53rd), BROCKBANK 28th, JONES 75th) WOLLONGONG 0 at Bruce Stadium. Crowd 2023. Ratings by Peter Windsor:

CANBERRA: Franken 9 — Ontong 7, Murray 7, Redmond 7, Jones 8 — Brockbank 8, Sermanni 8, Bryant 7 (Hogg 8, 50th min) — Farina 9, Perinovic 7 (Phillips 57th), Reis 7. Coach: Doug Collins.
WOLLONGONG: Tilsed 7 — Green 8, Gaffney 7, Viletstra (inj 8th min sub Risteovski 6, replaced by Kukolovski 74th), Kerr 7 — Willis 7, Kotamanidis 7, Condon 7, Bundalo 9 — Beggs 8, Fontana sent off, 4th min. Coach: Adrian Alston.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Franken (C), 5. Farina (C), 4. Bundalo (W), 3. Brockbank (C), 2. Sermanni (C), 1. Beggs (W).

APIA-LEICHHARDT 1 (Gray 45th) MARCONI 0 at Hanson Park. Crowd about 2000. Ratings by Peter Scott:

APIA: Parkes 7, Skellern 8, Pullen 6, Benzons 7, M. Brown 7, Butler 7, Gray 8, Treddinick 5, Bradley 7, Caban 8, Morsello 6 (Genovese 79th).
MARCONI: James 7, Carter 6, Calderan 5, Mariani 5, Djordjevic 6, Carbone 5 (Carizzo 68th), Henderson 6, Spanos 6, Lowe 5, R. Brown 6, Licata 5 (Sharne 46th, 5).
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Gray (APIA), 5. Bradley (APIA), 4. Caban (APIA), 3. Butler (APIA), 2. Parkes (APIA), 1. James (M).

JUVENTUS 2 (Sweeney 67th and 68th) MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Markovac 75th) at Olympic Park No. 2. Crowd about 3000. Ratings by Craig Mackenzie:

JUVENTUS: Keogh 7 — Geramia 7, Rogers 8, Dowie 8, Hird 7 — Miranda 6, Swinscoe 6, Cullen 8 — Sweeney 8, Ward 7. Coach: John Margatits.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Blasby 7 — Curcio 7, Parton 8, Adams 7, Hannah 7 (inj. Desankovic 35th, 7) — Biskic 6 (Markovac 72nd), Faulkner 8, Lewis 7, Gojovic 6 — Cumming 7, Brogan 7. Coach: Terry Hennessy.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Dowie (JJ), 5. Cullen (JJ), 4. Faulkner (C), 3. Rogers (JJ), 2. Parton (C), 1. Sweeney (JJ).

BRISBANE CITY 0 BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Ogden 68th) at Spencer Park. Crowd about 2500. Ratings by Ricky Rosso:

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 8 — Fabrizio 7, Perry 8, Tokesi 7, Wilkinson 7 — Hamilton 6, Pimblett 6, Brumfield 6 (Hughes 82nd) — Swan 6 (Conner 6, 68th), Mountford 7, Mengotti 7. Coach: Joe Gilroy.
BRISBANE LIONS: Evans 7 — Cork 6 (Niven 7, half time), Charlton 6, Hunter 7, Jackson 8 — R. Stewart 6, J. Stewart 8, Ogden 7 — Redmond 7, Wright 6, McDonagh 8. Coach: Harry Noon.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. J. Stewart (BL), 5. Wishart (BC), 4. Jackson (BL), 3. Perry (BC), 2. McDonagh (BL), 1. Fabrizio (BC).

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 1 (Rankin 82nd), at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd 400. Ratings by Memo Toutsidis:

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS: McNally 7 — Shilabeer 7, Melita 7, Flounders 8, Nyskohus 7 — Devito 8, Villani 7, Carter 7, Maxwell 8 — Mullan 7, Rankin 7.
WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sproul 8 — Parazoglou 8, Honeyman 8, McGachey 7, McGregor 7 (Stamatelopoulos 75th) — Hiem 7, Atsias 7, Totsikas 7, Panagis 7 — Konstandopoulos 6 (Brown 6, 45th), Malavazos 6.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Sproul (WA), 5. Maxwell (AC), 4. Flounders (AC), 3. DeVito (AC), 2. Honeyman (WA), 1. Parazoglou (WA).

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Barnes o.g. 90th) SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 1 (Murray 86th) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 1070. Ratings by Paul Goodwin:

BLACKTOWN CITY: Hoare 9, Wheatley 7, Shaw 8, Dunleavy 6, Pointer 7, Selvaige 7, Bourke 6, Byrne 7, Sandy 6, Larkin 7, P. O'Connor 7.
SYDNEY CITY: Clarke 8, Cant 7, Robertson 6, Gomez 7, Lynch 7, Kay 8, Watson 7, Barnes 8, Fletcher 8, Kosmina 8, Boden 7 (Murray 70th).
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Hoare (BC), 5. Kay (SC), 4. Clarke (SC), 3. Fletcher (SC), 2. Shaw (BC), 1. Kosmina (SC).

MELITA EAGLES 1 (Johnston 42nd) SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (Arnold 16th, Savor 60th) at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 3107. Ratings by Mick Mikolajczyk:

MELITA: McPherson 6, McAusland 7, McGinn 7, Wilson 7, H. Treddinick 7 — Davies 6 (Duarte 68th), Farrugia 7, Allan 7, Griffiths 7, Farnsworth 6, Johnston 7.
SYDNEY CROATIA: Watson 7, Woods 7, Sterrey 7, Vidlac 8, Tomaic 7, M. Kovacic 6 (Basic 77th), Meades 7, Rezo 7, Savor 8, Arnold 7, Kirwan 7.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. Savor (SC), 5. Vidlac (SC), 4. Johnston (ME), 3. Kirwan (SC), 2. Arnold (SC), 1. Rezo (SC).

PENRITH 0 NEWCASTLE UNITED 2 (McQuarrie 40th, Brandt 90th) at Cook Park. Crowd: about 1500. Ratings by Alex Vasic:

PENRITH CITY: Gibson 8, Brogan 6, Daley 6, McIntosh 8, Cross 5, Colusso 5 (Wotherspoon 77th), Lindsay 8, Fitzharris 6, Hunter 7, Cotton 5, Jackson 6.
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Gosling 8, Kerby 7, Burke 8, Boogaardt 7, Maier 8, McQuarrie 7, Senkalski 8, Mason 8, Jones (Heslam 1st, 6, Morgan 77th), McClelland 7, Brandt 7.
Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6. McIntosh (PC), 5. Senkalski (NU), 4. Mason (NU), 3. Maier (NU), 2. Gosling (NU), 1. Burke (NU).

Team of the week

	HOARE			
SKEN	(Blacktown)	RATCLIFFE	HOGBEN	
(St Geo)		(St Geo)	(G. Gully)	
CUROVIC	CANNELL	J. STEWART	BUNDALO	
(JUST)	(G. Gully)	(Boral Lions)	(Wollongong)	
	GRAY	SAVOR		
	(APIA)	(Syd. Croatia)		
	FARINA			
	(Canberra)			



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Fontana sent off, Vlietstra hurt, Wolves whipped!



Peter Windsor



Ray Vlietstra

Canberra 4 Wollongong 0

Scorers: Farina 23rd & 53rd, Brockbank 28th, Jones 75th.
Cautions: Kerr (W), Bryant (C)

Sent off: Fontana (W) 4th
Referee: Glyn Davies 5.

It was a disastrous first round for Wollongong in Canberra on Sunday.

Not only did it lose its NSL clash 4-0 — it also had striker Glen Fontana sent off and had talented defender Ray Vlietstra badly injured and carried off the park on a stretcher.

Vlietstra suffered a burst eardrum and could be out for a month. If that wasn't bad enough, one of Wollongong's most promising youngsters — 18 year old Pat Brodnik — was badly injured in the earlier youth league game and taken to hospital with a broken ankle.

"Arrows, Arrows," was the chant from the home fans. And it was understandable. Canberra had achieved its best ever opening game win by thrashing Wollongong. But it was a win against only 10 men.

Wollongong's chances virtually ended in the fourth minute when referee Glyn Davies sent off striker Fontana for an off-the-ball incident involving Canberra defender, Paul Ontong.

Like the Wollongong players, the decision astounded me. Davies didn't appear to have seen the incident which was flagged by linesman, Bob Marshall.

Wollongong's confidence understandably undermined, was to suffer another blow minutes later.

Canberra had Wollongong's goal under siege when big Canberra defender Roy Jones and Wollongong defender Vlietstra clashed heads. Vlietstra was carried off the ground on a stretcher and taken to hospital.

Canberra, of course, was buoyed by its good fortune. But don't think it was one-sided. For example, in the 16th minute, Wollongong's best player, Alex Bundalo, burst through on the right flank and struck a fierce drive. Only a superb fingertip save from Canberra's goalkeeper Tony Franken prevented a goal.

Canberra kept pressing and Wollongong's reshuffled side was caught up the gulle of Canberra skipper Steve Bryant in the 23rd minute. Dead-ball expert Bryant chipped a free over the defensive wall for Frank Farina to race onto the ball and volley it past Wollongong keeper Ron Tilsed.

In the 28th minute Canberra went 2-0 up through newcomer Andrew Brockbank. Midfielder Brockbank came up with the ball from a great tackle inside his own half, made ground rapidly and then chanced a ground shot from fully 30 metres. It appeared to be covered by Tilsed but somehow beat the 'keeper and rebounded in off the post.

Then came great crowd-pleasing goalmouth incidents

at both ends of the park. First Bundalo forced a point-blank save by Franken and when Peter Beggs headed the rebound goalwards once more Franken got down to fingertip the ball away from the post for a corner.

Sixty seconds later Canberra burst down the flank and Ontong's cross was superbly headed by Alan Reis from six metres out but Tilsed got a hand to it and pushed the ball onto the post.

Man of the Match: TONY FRANKEN (Canberra)

Right on half-time Bundalo again struck the ball with great pace from well out and again Franken denied him by fingertipping the shot out for a corner.

But once Canberra made it 2-0 early in the second half — the 53rd minute — the end result was predictable.

This time Steve Hogg — who had replaced Canberra's injured skipper Steve Bryant in the midfield — found Farina with a superb long ball and Farina crashed the ball passed Tilsed.

Full marks to the depleted Wollongong for trying, for in the 74th minute a shot from Brian Condon forced another spectacular save from young Franken.

Sixty seconds later Jones completed Canberra's scoring when he headed home a well-flighted corner from Brockbank.

Greedy to stay, Fraser to quit?

St. George 0 Syd. Olympic 0

Venue: St George Stadium
Referee: P. Rampling 8.

The off-quoted poetic justice at last prevailed: a fair draw was the result of this fast-flowing, exciting clash.

Even though the score-sheet remained empty, the fans got value for their money with plenty of goal-mouth action which could have produced a 3-3 draw — or a lucky runaway win for either team.

The Saints had a slight edge in the first half and

Egan sent off; goalkeepers delight 11,000 Macleod replaced—and Crino strikes

SM-Hellas 2 Heidelberg 0

Scorers: Crino 80th, Zyzendorn pen. 84th.
Venue: Middle Park.
Cautions: Macleod (H).
Sent off: Egan (SM) 35th min.
Referee: Chris Bambridge 9.



Laurie Schwab

Man of the Match: JEFF OLVER (Heidelberg)

You had to pity the Heidelberg defence when Ken Murphy and Doug Brown cut loose in the second half, cheered on by a crowd of more than 11,000 people.

Murphy had moved up to join Brown up front when Charlie Egan was sent off over a clash with Don Mcleod behind play in the 35th minute.

That send-off unsettled Hellas and the victory which had seemed a foregone conclusion came only after a lot of hard work.

It was due partly to the perseverance of Brown and Murphy up front, and also to Heidelberg's recklessness in defence — not to mention the surgical precision of Hellas goalkeeper Peter Laumets.

Oscar Crino set Hellas on the path to victory with a goal 10 minutes from the end, and he summer up the match afterwards.

"We knew the way they'd play against us. They've got a lot of young players, who run a lot and who closed us down quickly."

"When Charlie was sent off it made it harder for us, but in the second half we proved we were better than them."

Asked whether he thought he was headed for the national team, due to his recent good form, Crino said: "I was pleased to score for the second week in a row, but although it's the aim of every player to play for his country, I've got a little way to go yet."

Heidelberg, having persuaded Charlie Yankos to stay on despite a \$22,000 offer for him from Juventus, sprang a surprise by lining up with Steve Winn on the forward line. Marconi coach Les Scheinflug said Heidelberg had

bought Winn from Marconi for "close to \$15,000."

Although Heidelberg's players gave it all they had, they were able to attack only in breakaways — mainly via Scott Patterson — and consequently Winn was rarely in the action. In fact, he had only one scoring attempt — a header that went straight at goalkeeper Jeff Olver.

Talking about goalkeepers — both of them were the outstanding players of this match, with Murphy and Brown not far behind.

Let's have a look at some of their saves:

First, Laumets: 20th minute: Scott Patterson, on an acute angle, floats the ball across. At first it looks harmless, but then, Laumets has to leap and palm the ball over the bar to prevent a goal.

30th minute: Joe Angele, who spends most of the game marking Oscar Crino, breaks clear about 35 metres from goal, runs forward, and unleashes a fine shot that's heading just under the bar, but again Laumets leaps to turn it over the top.

60th minute: Yet another one-handed, fingertip save by the Hellas goalkeeper, turning a shot from Theo Selemidis over the bar.

And Olver: 6th minute: Olver dives to

his right to deflect a long shot from Murphy past the post.

8th minute: Despite having his view blocked by many players in front of him, Olver gets down low to stop a shot from Carl Halford.

55th minute: A long ball goes over the head of Heidelberg's last man, Charlie Yankos, allowing Doug Brown to break through. Brown passes to Crino, and he to Murphy who runs clear into the box, to face Olver. It looks a goal all the way, but Olver blocks Murphy and when the ball rebounds to Murphy, Olver repeats the feat.

73rd minute: Olver does a Laumets, pushing a free kick from Brown over the top.

Heidelberg was living dangerously by pushing up too far and failing to mark Murphy and Brown tightly enough.

With Halford and Alan Davidson turning up all over the place, helping the defence as well as the forwards, Hellas started hitting back strongly after Heidelberg's period of promise.

Murphy had been foiled by Olver, and so too had Brown who, in addition, had missed with a low shot after breaking clear of Don Macleod and Yankos at the edge of the area.

Then Heidelberg coach Brian Garvey decided to replace Macleod with young Robert Krajacic. Certainly, Macleod had just had a hair-raising miss with a tackle, but he is an integral part of the side — a hard man who always gives his all.

It was only two minutes after that replacement that Oscar Crino scored, shooting low, off the far post, into the net, after the ball had come across from Brown.

With six minutes to play, Halford sent a header goalwards, and with Olver beaten, Yankos desperately scooped it over the top with his hands.

Referee Chris Bambridge awarded the penalty and John Zyzendorn made no mistake from the spot.



Heidelberg's new signing from Marconi, striker Steve Winn (right) challenges for a high ball against South Melbourne Hellas stopper Steve Blair at Middle Park last Sunday. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

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Man of the Match: DAVID RATCLIFFE (St George)

Greedy made a surprise return to the Saints after his "retirement", following a breakdown in contract talks with the club's other goalie, Mike Fraser.

Now the chances are that Greedy will play out the season — and Fraser may ask for a transfer.

Play evened out in the second half and most of the action was fast, if not always accurate.

Both sets of strikers were performing well below their best. This was especially noticeable with the highly rated Marshall Soper and Robbie Slater.

In the 46th minute Barton had his third match-winning chance but his close-range shot was scrambled to corner.

Then Olympic showed us that it also has a knack for missing golden opportunities.

In the 62nd minute Jim Patikas broke free, sprint-



Andrew Dettre

ed away and, facing only Greedy, whacked his shot wide.

Two minutes later Peter Katholos came on as a sub and within seconds had a chance to prove to coach Manfred Schaefer that his omission from the starting team was mistake.

Katholos received a pass some six metres from goal, took aim — and slipped an easy shot wide of Greedy's goal.

In the last 20 minutes both teams made renewed efforts to clinch the points. Barton, then Patikas smashed shots high and then Barton muffed his incredible fifth chance by heading weakly into the goalie's arms from a few steps.

But, perhaps, it was just as well: neither team would have deserved to lose this match.

In both sides the superbly organised defences ruled the roost against disjointed attacks.

The Olympic midfield was a trifle more impressive and Katholos will find it very difficult to force his way back into the team: coach Schaefer is anything but enamored in his style of football.

Arok, also the NSW State coach gearing up for the Queensland match, was most impressed with Olympic's display.

He said after the game, that he was considering several Olympians for the NSW side — Dakos, Jennings, Raskopoulos, Patikas and Soper can expect to be called up.

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Lions lap up sun, then bite



Ricky Rosso

Bris. Lions 1 Bris. City 0

Score: Ogden 68th.
Venue: Spencer Park.
Crowd: About 2500.
Referee: Bill Monteverde 7.
Cautions: BL — Cork 39th,
Hunter 63rd, Stewart 90th.

A Gold Coast training camp proved to be the last-minute catalyst that moulded the new-look Brisbane Lions team into a winning side against Brisbane City.

The four-day camp brought together the squad which had gained a new coach and four new players only weeks before the start of the season.

But despite the predictions that Lions would be disjointed and non-competitive, last year's wooden spoons dominated a hard-fought, typically physical derby to win 1-0.

Lions went into the match underdogs and emerged heroes.

The youngsters — and prior to the signings Alan Niven was the oldest at 27 — did not have a coach only a month ago and in the weeks since have had to completely change their style and approach.

But it was the camp that moulded the squad into a team and at times Lions played slick football that had City on the run.

New coach Harry Noon has



Coach Harry Noon (centre) and his Lions celebrate their victory — Picture by CARLOS PICASSO

insisted on one-touch football, plenty of support for the man on the ball and total commitment to chase back once possession is lost.

And led by new captain John Stewart, who at 24 years must be the youngest leader in the NSL, Lions did it well enough to snatch a goal and hold City at bay.

It was not a pretty game to watch.

City was determined to play Lions tight. Marking was ruthless and although Lions threw players forward and tried to squeeze down the wings through McDonagh, Wright and Ogden, they made little headway against the superbly marshalled City back four.

But City wasn't penetrating either. They seemed content to let new signing Bob Mountford play a lone hand up front and subsequently his neat touches and flicks went to waste.

So the game bogged down in midfield.

Lions dominated there, with John Stewart playing a big role and completely overshadowing Frank Pimblett. But Lions wasted their superiority by squandering possession.

Shot for shot Lions finished well ahead and it was only two brilliant saves from Kim Wishart that kept the game scoreless for so long. Having lost a stone, the Australian squad keeper for the England series is well in line to win another cap.

Man of the Match: JOHN STEWART (Bris. Lions)

City had its chance when Russell Stewart headed off the line in the 22nd minute, then Steve Jackson, who replaced Niven in the starting line-up, headed away as Mountford moved in for the kill in the 35th minute.

But the winner came in the 68th minute and Ogden made it out of nothing.

He had the ball on the edge of the penalty box and appeared to be going left. Three City defenders moved in to cut off the run, but the Lions midfielder deftly spun around, sending the three defenders the wrong way and cracked a shot low into the goal.

Staring defeat in the face, City finally began to push forward, as it should have much earlier, and nearly got caught several times at the back.

But with 10 minutes to go, the game was over. City tried for an equaliser but began bombing even the easiest of opportunities.

For lions, new keeper Wayne Evans was sound and Phil Redmond could be an asset. Defenders John Charlton and David Cork were

not impressive but then not without potential.

Niven, who came on at half-time, is certain to be a better player for his shock half-game dropping.

While John Stewart was outstanding, Russell took it easy and must begin to play for 90 minutes for Lions to be a force.

City's defence was undoubtedly the strongest part of the team. Despite the absence of Frank Liddell through suspension, it gave away little.

Luciano Fabrizio's commitment was particularly outstanding.

Sadly, the midfield did not look fit. Pimblett and Hamilton could not match the tenacious style of John Stewart while Bromfield and Swan was uncharacteristically out of touch.

Up front Mountford must have support, and with a few more games under his belt, youngster Frank Mengotti might be the man.

In all, it was a game of about the standard of the weak opposition these two sides have had to play in pre-season trials. The real test will come this weekend when they face seasoned southern opposition.

TANSEY STARS AS SWEEPERS

Makedonia 1 JUST 1

Scorers: Mak: Cole penalty 79th; JUST: Lujic 42nd.
Venue: Connor Reserve
Crowd: About 4000
Sent off: Dobson — Makedonia — 44th
Cautions: Makedonia — Petrovski, Campbell. JUST — Hazabent, Belic, Tutill.
Referee: Dennis Voutsinas 7.

This truly was a game of contrasting halves!

Both coaches felt that their respective teams should have done better (Makedonia in the first half and JUST in the second), yet when it was all over, Bobby McLachlan and Peter Ollerton agreed, that under the circumstances, sharing the points wasn't such a bad thing after all.

There was a contrast in the debut of two new signings. Jimmy Tansey had a great game, sweeping confidently behind Gary McDowell, using his positional sense and experience to great advantage. On the other hand, Ian Dobson, Makedonia's prize recruit from Croydon, missed the whole of the second half, by courtesy of Mr Voutsinas, after a clash with young Vlatko Belic.

Makedonia started off in great style, Zoran Ilioski just missing the target in the 2nd minute. The same player shot over the bar a few minutes later, then George Campbell picked up a through ball from Claudio Lucchesi and shot powerfully from close range, only to see his shot brilliantly deflected by Lou Tsigras, and the ball eventually scrambled away for a corner by the JUST defenders.

If Makedonia would have scored during the early period, perhaps the pre-match predictions would have come true, Makedonia nothing an



Ken Kontra

easy victory over their opponents, who have had more than their share of problems with injuries and illness in recent times.

However, as the game progressed, the JUST players gained confidence. The backline of Ken Taylor, Gary McDowell, Tansey and Graham Tutill began to deal confidently with Graham Heys, Gary Cole and Camp-

Man of the Match: SULEIMAN CUROVIC (JUST)

bell, and what nobody would have predicted happened, the JUST midfield started to control proceedings. Young Curovic not only blotted out Ozdakov but also fed his forwards with good passes and made several penetrating runs on the right flank.

As JUST took control of the midfield, the pressure was on the Makedonia backline, and both Steve Potter and George McMillan had to produce their best to stop the ranging J.U.S.T. forwards.

First Belic, then Carroll was pulled up for offside, thus destroying promising attacks, then Carroll hooked the ball over the bar after playing a quick one-two with Belic in the 30th minute.

Two minutes later, Potter

saved from Belic, who was put through by Lujic, and in the 38th minute Potter deflected a Carroll shot for a corner and a minute later, Lujic broke the deadlock, scoring after the best move of the match. Carroll got the ball in midfield, found Curovic with his pass, who knocked an inspired through ball in front of Lujic who was running through the middle. Lujic beat both Dobson and McMillan with pace and slotted the ball home under the diving goalkeeper.

To add to Makedonia's woes, Dobson received his marching orders from referee Voutsinas just before half time. Makedonia started the second half with a lot more purpose and application. Curiously J.U.S.T. seemed rather complacent or over-confident and instead of hammering home the advantage, it allowed Makedonia to take charge.

In the 47th minute a Heys shot whistled past the post and in the 50th, Ozdakov's job was well saved by Tsigras.

Makedonia was pushing forward, playing man for man in defence to compensate for the loss of Dobson, and J.U.S.T. seemed content to hang on to its one goal advantage.

Ollerton replaced Heys with Alex Livingstone in the 74th minute, no doubt to allow Lucchesi to move forward and support Cole, who was well marked by McDowell for most of the match. In fact, Cole had his first shot at goal in the 78th minute!

Ollerton came on in the 78th minute, replacing a disappointing Ilioski and took the pressure off Cole, who never is at his best with his back to the opposition's goal, particularly in dealing with high balls.

In the 79th minute, Ollerton flicked on a cross and McDowell appeared to handle the ball. Certainly, the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Cole took the kick and made no mistake.

Latif, Gilder hit the woodwork

S. Geo. Cross 0 G. Gully 0

Venue: Chaplin Reserve
Referee: Sam Zoumas 6
Cautions: Richardson, O'Reilly (SGC), Vassallo, Cannell, Hogben (GG)
George Cross and Green Gully are destined to struggle in the lower reaches of the NSL unless they find a goalscorer able to turn the chances they create into goals.

Despite the loss of Peter Lewis and Peter Boyle, there were traces of the old flowing moves from Green Gully, which put the Cross defence under a lot of pressure but they definitely were a void in the finishing department where the loss of Paul Lewis was sorely felt.

And despite the territorial advantage, Gully was left for dead when it came to the clearer-cut scoring chances.

Cross hit the woodwork twice and then fluffed the easiest scoring chance of the game right on full time when Mick McGorran robbed a defender and broke through with only the keeper to beat but shot straight at Lou Denys.

Cross must get a central defender to take some of the load off Jim O'Reilly if it is to avoid relegation and that should become the more important recruiting target ahead of the



Peter Desira

John Stevenson, the most experienced NSL player on the park, best summed up what George Cross has to do to avoid a relegation struggle.

"We created three great chances and at this level you've got to convert at least one in three to win matches," he said.

Stevenson was realistic enough however to admit that overall Cross did not do enough to win it.

The match had a slight edge in the first half, then Gully put us under pressure after the break.

Cross must get a central defender to take some of the load off Jim O'Reilly if it is to avoid relegation and that should become the more important recruiting target ahead of the

Dennis Boland acquisition, in my books.

Certainly Cross had no one to match Gully centreback Stuart Cannell who stood out like a beacon in this match, winning most of the aerial duels against Carl Gilder and making several timely interceptions.

His performance certainly made up for the inexperience of the two newcomers in the back four — Ron Kremers and Paul Beranic.

As it turned out Beranic more than held his own against Mick McGorran and certainly deserves an extended run in the seniors.

Kremers, whose ideal position is centre back, was less safe and it was his mistake that presented Ossie Latif with the chance to score on his debut right on half time.

Latif, signed from Melbourne Croatia for \$10,000 on Friday, robbed the blond defender and raced into the box to shoot past Lou Denys but the ball bounced off the foot of the post and was cleared.

Gilder had earlier met a Chris Taylor freekick with a

Man of the Match: STUART CANNELL (Green Gully)

fierce header which smashed against the crossbar for another near miss.

Gully's scoring chances included a clever Bobby Tool chip which beat the keeper but which was cleared off the line by Steve Richardson.

Then there was a jinking run by Tool to feed Ken Smart on the edge of the box. The former Albion Rovers striker was brought down as he turned to shoot but the resultant freekick was spooned over the bar by David Smallman.

Cross coach Tommy Traynor said after the game. "We could have sneaked it but I'm reasonably pleased."

"Realistically we've got to aim for a mid-table position in our first season — if we finish sixth I'd be in raptures."



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Newcastle too efficient, too organised

Penrith 0 Newcastle 2

Scorers: McQuarrie 40th, Brandt 90th.

Ground: Cook Park.
Crowd: about 1,500
Referee: Arthur Owens 7.
Yellow cards: Brogan, Daley, McIntosh (Penrith), Boogaard, Brandt (N).

Newcastle United lost its speedy forward David Jones in the opening minute of the game at Cook Park, but never lost its composure and over-powered the league newcomer before a disappointing crowd of 1,500.

Less than 700 paid spectators turned up, but with so many clubs from the local district parading at the start and with so many freebies, the total attendance would come close to 1,500. It was nowhere near the mark anticipated by the club and far less than I expected for its first-ever encounter at Penrith.

John McGlynn, the man who worked so hard to have soccer at Penrith, was bitterly disappointed. Not with the result, for he, like so many others at Penrith, does not believe in



Alex Vesic

miracles, but with the crowd response. "Well, we are bound to do better with Croatia in the next round," said McGlynn.

He obviously was referring to the crowd figure, as I doubt that Penrith could do much against the in-form Croatia.

The match started on a disastrous note for Newcastle. David Jones was flying down the left flank in the opening minute and only a diving tackle by Paul Daley, who conceded a corner, kept the Newcastle man at bay. However, Jones received a cut above his ankle which later needed six stitches and was replaced by Warren Heslam.

Heslam replaced Ralph Maier at fullback, Maier switching to midfield, and Newcastle was left with two from the back — Malcolm McClelland and Simon Brandt. When Ian Hunter broke

through on the left flank to send his left footer just wide from an angle after seven minutes, it looked as if Newcastle would be hard pressed to protect its goal.

However, the expectations of the local crowd never came to fruition as Penrith only managed one more shot and that was by Roy Cotton (which also went wide) during the first period.

With guile and enthusiasm raven in the NSL, Newcastle took to its task in the same efficient and organised fashion it displayed last season.

Its engine room operated to perfection with Joe Senkalski and Craig Mason controlling proceedings and McQuarrie and Maier supporting the attack down both flanks. An incredible number of through balls were past the bewildered Penrith defence, sending either Brandt or McClelland wide with Maier and McQuarrie charging in to support.

Mike Gibson was a very busy man during the opening period. McClelland hooked a shot early in the piece only to see Gibson make an acrobatic save, then came Maier, from a through pass by McQuarrie. He faced Gibson but the Pen-

Man of the Match: DAVE MCINTOSH (Penrith City)

rith keeper showed great reflexes to dive at Maier's feet and save.

However, Gibson was not so lucky in the 40th minute. Bernard Kerby passed to John McQuarrie, whose backheader followed and Gibson was beaten.

Penrith had more of the play in the second half but apart from some good runs by Hunter and Brian Jackson, Newcastle never looked troubled. In fact, every time Newcastle came forward, counter attacking, the home side was threatened. Brandt and McClelland created havoc up front for Brandt to notch his goal in the last minute of the match.

Peter Morgan, who replaced Heslam, played a neat one-two with McClelland then sent in a curling cross which was tucked away by Brandt to make it 2-0 to the visitors.

Sweeney, Ward cut loose



Craig Mackenzie

Juventus 2 M. Croatia 1

Scores: Sweeney 1J 67th & 86th; Markovac (C) 75th.
Venue: Olympic Park No. 2
Cautions: Cullen, Dowie, Hird (J); Adams, Lewis (C).
Referee: Jim Fearn 6.

Juventus fans sat, many impatiently, throughout the recent Buffalo Gold Summer Cup competition, wondering how long they would have to wait until their club's new striking duo, Joe Sweeney from Croydon and Gary Ward from Preston Makedonia, would click.

In two devastating moments at Olympic Park last Sunday, the great wait ended! And it was another Juventus new boy, Richard Miranda, bought from Box Hill, and played out of position in the Buffalo Gold Summer Cup, who had a hand in the opening goal. Although Miranda was back in his best role — as a midfielder — he didn't have a great game. However, he possesses a prodigious throw-in and this weapon was unveiled against Croatia, to great effect in the 67th minute.

Miranda unleashed a huge throw-in from the right, Ward headed on and there was Sweeney, nipping in behind the Croatia defence, to prod the ball over the line just four metres away from the near post.

The game had sprung to life after a dull first half in which giving the ball away with the greatest of ease was the philosophy embraced by most players.

Juventus had thrown down the gauntlet. Croatia coach Terry Hennessy didn't take long to respond. He replaced Josip Biskic with Robert Markovac in the 72nd minute. Three

Man of the Match: JOHN DOWIE (Juventus)

minutes later Markovac had his first touch and scored! John Dowie, an immaculate disposer of the ball, was ruled to have fouled Tommy Cumming just outside the area on Croatia's left. Jeff Faulkner, Croatia's best midfielder, touched ball to Cumming, who clipped it delightfully over goalkeeper Sean Keogh, only to be denied by the bar. Drago Deankovic, a first-half replacement for injured George Hannah, floated the rebound to the far post. Sean Parton, as usual a tireless trier, challenged well and the ball lobbed back across to Markovac who headed in from four metres.

The game was destined for a draw, until Rob Cullen charged forward and slipped a well weighted pass to Ward, free on the right. Ward looked up and saw Sweeney charging toward the far post. In a second, Ward had played the perfect ball and Sweeney beaded down, firmly, past stranded Peter Blasby, for the winner.

Juventus fans went wild with delight and rose as one when referee Jim Fearn blew for the last time, to signal their team's victory.

Croatia's new signing for \$14,000 from Green Gully Ajax, big Peter Lewis, started off in a central midfield role due to the unavailability of injured Jozo Antonicic. Lewis reverted to the left back spot vacated in the first half by injured Hannah and shut out young Andrew Zinni.

The postmortem in the Croatia rooms after the game centred upon Croatia players dropping their heads, an uncommon sight.

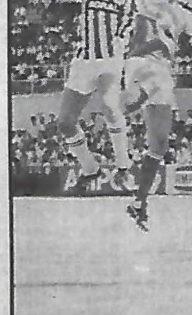
One wonders what the nature of this demon which plagues Croatia every time it has clashed with Juventus recently. Croatia failed to beat

Juventus in last year's State League and kicked off its first ever NSL sortie in like fashion.

Croatia's squad still lacks a touch of quality and a liberal dash of depth. That's going to be rectified shortly.

Juventus too, still wants to buy. One wonders how the club can continue to search for a top flight central defender, when Billy Rogers easily can play there.

Okay, maybe Dowie would be better off in midfield. That remains to be seen in the NSL. If so, buy a sweeper, but don't search high and low for a stopper.



Joe Sweeney

WA-Hellas goalkeeper Gary Sproul punches clear of Adelaide Juventus striker Joe Mullen (stripes). At right: Charlie Villani (stripes) and Tom Totsikas. Picture by FRANK HOBBS.



Joe Sweeney



Joe Mullen

WA-Hellas goalkeeper Gary Sproul punches clear of Adelaide Juventus striker Joe Mullen (stripes). At right: Charlie Villani (stripes) and Tom Totsikas. Picture by FRANK HOBBS.

On no, not a loss to the old enemy!

APIA 1 Marconi 0

Scorer: Gray 45th.
Venue: Hanson Park.
Cautions: Calderan, Djordjevic (Marc), Butler (APIA).
Referee: Richard Lorenz 7.

This was the worst possible start to the new season for ambitious Marconi, under Soccercoo coach Les Scheinflug.

Of all teams in the NSL for it to lose against, Italian arch-rival APIA must have been especially galling, even with striker Mark Jankovic on the sideline with a calf injury, which is likely to keep him out of action for another match.

Then there is the case of last year's skipper Tommy McCulloch, presently embroiled in a contract dispute with the club, and preferring to take the weekend off!

The fate of the two points at stake were determined with the very last kick of the first half.

Man of the Match: IAN GRAY (APIA)

Kerry Caban, formerly with Wallis in Northern NSW, looked like giving the Marconi defence the slip with a strong run down the middle and Jovan Djordjevic only could stop him by dragging him down right on the 16 metre line.

A hot dispute ensued over whether or not the offence was inside the penalty area, with Referee Lorenz adamant that it was not.

All the arguments became irrelevant when Ian Gray calmly blasted the free kick through the defence and watched it rocket off the far post into the net.

New Marconi signing John Spanos, was quite effective in a spoiling role, while Attila Carbone was very ordinary indeed.

Add to this the unfortunate fact that Tony Henderson was almost completely incapable of fulfilling the role of grafter and builder, and you've got the picture.

Coach Scheinflug confessed that Henderson still is far from match fit after a long summer break, but even at his peak the role of constructive midfielder is one which he will have to "grow" into after a long career as sweeper-stopper.

Lowie, Brown and Licata were almost always left to their own devices, chasing longish balls booted out of defence, and facing a russe



Peter Scott

against a numerically superior APIA rear guard.

They made almost no impression, as a result, even after Peter Sharpe replaced Licata at half-time. The former Soccercoo speedster still is only a shadow of his glorious self of several years ago.

Although winning in the end, APIA also has problems, which its boss Fil Bottalico will no doubt give some thought to, once the postmatch euphoria wears off. Too many chances, and good ones at that, were fluffed, with Tony Mossello the main culprit.

But, on the side, John Bradley was again in a lively mood and looks set to cause plenty of headaches for opponents this year.

The elegant Gray I have already mentioned, and we should add to our list of players to watch this year, Kerry Caban.

Whether APIA's promise is more than just an illusion, will be proven on Sunday.



Ian Gray

when it is at home again, against newcomer Melita Eagles.

And Marconi? A home match against another NSL rookie in Blacktown City may be just what the doctor ordered — but it will have to improve drastically, and soon!

Melita the old rival sunk by Wally Savor

By MIKE MIKOLAJCZYK

Melita 1 Syd. Croatia 2

Venue: Melita Stadium.
Scorer: Johnston 42nd (ME); Arnold 16th, Savor 60th (SC).
Cautions: Vidic (SC); Treddinick (ME).
Crowd: 3107.
Referee: Doug Rennie 8.

Newcomers Melita and Croatia nearly battled themselves to a standstill in their quest for the first points of the 1984 NSL season.

The game was played at a furious pace and the hot conditions soon sapped the players' energy. This produced some untidy play at times but the players must be given credit for their enthusiasm and tremendous endeavour.

The game was only 16 minutes old when Croatia drew first blood.

A few minutes earlier, big Bruno Vidic received a yellow card for a foul on the onrushing Don Allan when Melita was pressing Steve Watson's goal. The resultant free kick produced no threat and Croatia immediately swept upfield forcing a corner.

Dave Rezo floated over a perfect ball and Graeme Arnold outpunched the Melita defence to head Croatia into the lead.

Melita strove to make amends but Wayne Farnsworth and later Ray Farrugia should have made better of two great goalscoring opportunities.

Attack and counter attack continued but many promising moves broke down because of over-elaborate interpassing. Nevertheless, whenever the ball was pushed out to the wings, both defences were stretched to clear the danger.

Just when Croatia was content to coast to a half-time lead, Melita scored the equal-

Man of the Match: WALLY SAVOR (Syd. Croatia)

iser. Stuart Johnston caught the Croatia defence napping when he raced after Farrugia's throw pass, drew out Watson, and comfortably slotted the ball home.

The second half continued much as the first, with both sides vying anxiously for the winning goal. By now, Wally Savor was really turning it on and every time he got the ball Melita was in trouble.

Croatia went ahead through Savor in the 60th minute.

Rezo broke on the left and his hard and low shot, across the face of goal, eluded a multitude of Melita defenders. Savor unmarked, accurately sidefooted the ball into the net after backing up the move he started from the right side of midfield.

The game was far from over however and both sides had great chances to add to the score.

Savor nearly got another in the 64th minute but his shot was just wide.

Melita tried desperately for an equaliser and brought on Dennis Duarte for the exhausted John Davies. Duarte was pushed up front and nearly scored in the dying minutes of the game.

During this time Farnsworth missed his second golden chance to score and Croatia, under siege, must have been praying for the final whistle.

And come it did, just in time to keep the score intact. Both teams had battled hard and indeed it was a day of missed chances which ultimately went against the home team in its inaugural baptism in the "big league."

Last minute leveller saves Blacktown



Paul Goodwin

Blacktown 1 S.C. Hakoah 1

Scorer: Murray 96th (SC), Barnes a.g. 90th (B).
Venue: Gabbin Stadium.
Crowd: 1,070.
Referee: G. Warne 6.
Cautions: Kosminic (SC).

Blacktown City looked like earning a point from this game right up to the 86th minute when substitute Willie Murray gave Sydney City Hakoah the lead.

The point was retrieved in the last minute of the game when Phil O'Connor figured in a final assault on the visitors' goal which brought the scores level once more, thanks to a Murray Barnes own goal.

For most of the game Sydney City appeared to be in full control at the back and launched enough attacks to give promise of goals to come. Until the last few minutes, neither side really looked capable of breaking the deadlock and ultimately the 1-1 scoreline was a fair reflection of the game.

Graham Fletcher looked menacing whenever he

Man of the Match: BARRY HOARE (Blacktown)

charged into the Blacktown penalty area and he was the one player who looked most like finding a way through a packed Blacktown defence.

Things picked up a bit for Sydney City after Willie Murray replaced Boden in the 70th minute. His 73rd minute shot was saved by alert Barry Hoare and his lob through for John Kosminic once more saw the "keeper out to foil the Sydney City player.

The shot which did look a definite winner came four minutes from time. A free kick on the left, taken by Watson and knocked on by Kay, reached the goal line to be met by a wall of defenders. The ball fell at the feet of Murray. The experienced substitute coolly planted it through a crowded goalmouth into the net.

When all looked lost for Blacktown with only a minute left, Phil O'Connor cut in from the wing and unleashed a powerful left footed shot from an angle that deceived Clarke Barnes, on the line, only was able to get a boot to the ball and help it into the net.

Hellas, too, had chances.

Drought-breaker!

West Adel. 0 Adel. City 1

Scorer: Rankin 82nd.
Cautions: Papazoglou (Hellas); Shilabeer (Juventus).
Ground: Hindmarsh Stadium.
Referee: Don Campbell.

Adelaide City Juventus broke a seven-year drought when it beat West Adelaide Hellas 1-0 to record for the first time a first-round victory in the NSL.

Peter Rankin gave Juventus the points when he skotted a ground shot past Gary Sproul in the 82nd minute.

"Juve" deserved victory, but took an awfully long time to shake off a youthful and determined Hellas which matched its experienced opponents for much of the match.

Hellas, now under the guidance of Sam Salabasidis, should not be totally unhappy with this result but the club is in desperate need of some experienced players, particularly on the forward line.

As much possession as it had, Hellas was unable to consistently penetrate Juventus' well-drilled backlines.

Juventus on the other hand put Hellas' defence under bursts of pressure and only the good work of the defence and some sharp saves by goalkeeper Gary Sproul kept "Juve" at bay until late in the game.

Steve Maxwell, operating from the midfield, had the first chance to score in the 18th minute but his shot barely flew over the bar.

And then Charlie Villani had the misfortune of watching a delicate chip and a free kick both hit the bar within minutes.

Hellas, too, had chances.



Meno Tousidis

Man of the Match: GARY SPROUL (West Adel)

Steve Atsals had an open goal staring at him in the 35th minute but kicked wide, and just before the break George Konstantopoulos did all the hard work on the edge of J.U.S.'s six yard box, but then lost the opportunity when he tried to find a way around goalkeeper Willy McNally.

Hellas replaced Konstantopoulos with Tim Brown for the start of the second half but the move did not spark the Greek team.

Coach Salabasidis was forced to make another change late in the game when Ian McGregor failed to recover after being struck by a powerful shot.

Juventus fielded only one new player, midfielder Pat Devito, who had a quiet first half but enjoyed a much better second half and almost scored with a powerful strike which Sproul did well to deflect.

While predicting the fortunes of both clubs is fraught with danger, it is safe to say Juventus looks the better bet while Hellas has problems.

2 more for Bergers?

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Strengthened by Winn, Heidelberg was making bids for a midfielder and winger from Sydney as we went to Press.

Sunshine-George Cross continues its negotiations with J.U.S.T. for goalkeeper Dennis Boland, but wants to pay only \$10,000 for him, while J.U.S.T. has been holding out for \$12,000 (ME).

Brisbane Lions lined up for its first-round clash with John Charlton in defence. Charlton, who had been playing in Tasmania, is the son of former England international Jackie Charlton, and the nephew of Bobby Charlton.

Sydney Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer shocked the club's fans by leaving Peter Katsoulis, the 1982 Australian Player of the Year, on the bench for the clash with St George Budapest.

Makedonia says no

Preston Makedonia goalkeeper Richard Wilson will not return to his former team Christchurch Magal United.

Negotiations between the two clubs broke down after Makedonia refused to reduce the goalkeeper's transfer fee, claimed by the New Zealanders to be 20,000.

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Minorities are a mere minor concern to the old 'enforcer'

Lo and behold, another dawn of better days is upon us in Soccerdom.

Is it too much to hope that for once this actually will be true?

The 1984 version of the National Soccer League was launched last week at Sydney's very upmarket Boulevard Hotel.

As is customary on such occasions, the theme was one of optimism, a promise of good times — a new touch for such occasions — a call, nay, instruction, seeking discipline. This came from that veteran "enforcer" of the round ball code, Sir Arthur George.

Now in his 14th year as President of the ASF, the formidable Greek knight decided to hark back to the basics of democracy, which was invented by his illustrious homelander.

"Minorities must learn to still their voices and hold their tongues."

"If they don't we can live without you," he said.

A laudable objective, with only one tiny little thing wrong with it. Too often in the past, these "minorities" eventually were given their rights.

Turnaround

For instance, ponder the following statement:

"I believe in real markets, not markets I would like to have."

"One in five Australians were born outside this country and we would be crazy and irresponsible if we didn't claim and develop, or look after the ethnic market."

Those are the words of ASF and NSL commercial director Peter Sheehan, and who in his right mind could argue with them? Credit to Mr. Sheehan, but, of course, as keen readers of "Soccer Action" are well aware, he only is repeating sentiments, advice, pleas and cries from the "wilderness," which have been sounded by myself and my colleagues on this journal ever since the ethnic madmen first descended upon us almost eight years ago.

It is legitimate to point out to Sir Arthur that if it wasn't for this "minority" — more likely a mostly silent and unpairing majority — we probably would not have witnessed last week's return from cloud cuckoo land.

Minorities long have held an

IN FOCUS

by PETER SCOTT

honored place in the traditions of Aussie soccer, in fact without them there would not be an Australian Soccer Federation in existence. Just turn your minds back to the great break-away of the late fifties and early sixties. So, speak up minorities, make yourselves heard.

I may well disagree with what I hear, but will always pay attention and defend your right to say your piece.

Enforced conformity usually masks underlying problems for a short while, but only to the long term detriment of the enterprise.

Encouraging

What was encouraging to hear was Sir Arthur's unequivocal statement confirming that "the NSL will not die".

"It will either succeed in this new format, or after some modification," he said.

No doubt about it, the 1984 system is bold and unique in the world of soccer.

Great hopes are pinned on it, more local derbies, with expected bigger gates, more clashes between the top teams, more sudden death matches in an extensive playoff system — to name just a few.

I will stick my neck out, again, and suggest that we reserve judgement, see how it works out before starting to criticise.

If I do have a complaint at this time, it is over the premature abolition of the three points for a win system, which did no harm to the integrity of the competition, while at the same time possessing the potential to do an awful lot of good in the long run.

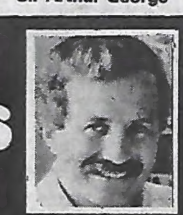
Money, money

Now for a little bit of discipline.

And the NSL turned out to be Sir Arthur's salvation after Philips ditched the league.

Last season saw an infusion

Sir Arthur George



of \$120,000, this year it is to be \$240,000 — no chicken feed in anyone's language.

The English sports marketing colossus seems on the verge of wrapping up Australian soccer, lock, stock and barrel, for seven years in the very near future and everyone is starry-eyed about the seven figure sum this is likely to involve.

God only knows, soccer needs the loot.

But there is a tiny little voice inside me which tells me to stay quiet, and it asks me questions like:

Is it healthy for all our eggs to be put into one basket for a long time?

Aren't we in danger of becoming just a subsidiary of a company located at the other end of the globe?

A few firms in West and Nally's line of business are on the verge of creating a situation of near monopoly in the marketing of major sports and events around the world, and there are those who worry about the situation.

For instance, a British government inquiry, which recommended action to reverse, or at least slow down this development, or the respected author-journalist Michael Mewshaw who in his soaring exposé of pro-tennis "Short Circuit" (Collins, \$12.95) expressed grave reservations about the ethicality of individuals representing players, sponsors, tournaments, mar-

kets, and companies, all at the same time.

Well, the situation already partly exists in Australian soccer and anyone with foresight must be worried about it.

Perhaps the inherent problems of the situation are not recognised by those involved, who may well be acting with the best of intentions. It is wrong, nonetheless, and I just hope we won't have to witness another "we were wrong" session a few years hence.

Are we selling our souls for a sponsorship dollar?

There is ample evidence that in some sports, the governing body has ceased to govern and has handed over control of the sport to entrepreneurs and management agencies.

There also is ample evidence to suggest that at least one prominent sporting goods manufacturer has the ability and the means to manipulate the election of key officers in various international sports in order to influence them later.

As a result, sport at the top level has become almost completely show business, with the emphasis on winning at all costs, and sportsmanship running a bad last.

It all sounds like the start of another spy novel by Robert Ludlum, but the above comments have been culled from the findings of a very august body, the British committee set up to enquire into all aspects of sports sponsorship, chaired by none other than Dennis Howell, Sports Minister in two Labour governments and himself a former soccer referee.

The 11 man committee included such international sportsmen as Colin Moynihan (rowing), John Young (British Rugby Lion), Harold Hassall (soccer) as well as Anthony Boyce, chairman of Torquay United F.C. and prominent swimming journalist, Mr. Pat Besford.

The committee commenced its monumental task by sending out a questionnaire to the governing bodies of 134 different sports, 82 of which replied, while the other 52 were too coy to reveal their financial involvement with sponsors — a telling fact in itself.

The committee in its report "regrets" that among the silent 52 were 10 "sports of significance", but it nevertheless gleaned enough information to come to the staggering conclusion that sports sponsorship has ballooned into an industry worth more than \$128 million a year.

As for the manipulation of key sports officials, far-fetched as it may sound, no less an authority than Horst Dessler, president of Adidas, interviewed by the committee, candidly admitted that Adidas kept a file of information on the election of officers in international sports organisations. "We are ready to make this information available to those who ask for it", he added. Shades of the CIA?

This prompted the committee to ask whether the Adidas file was used to exert undue influence on elections, and also to ask why the Adidas organisation needed to be present at the 1986 World Cup draw last December. The committee also enquired why FIFA President Joao Havelange should need to call for Adidas' help in promoting soccer in Africa.

And Patrick Nally, of West-Nally, negotiators of deals on behalf of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), giving evidence before

the committee, admitted that outside interests now distort sport.

He went on to say that "sport, like anything else, is subject to politics. It would surprise a good many sports enthusiasts, who just want to enjoy their favorite game, to know how political sport has become. It is great pity."

As far as soccer is concerned, there is no doubt that television has far too powerful an influence on the game, and manipulates World Cup schedules even to the extent of insisting that the games in 1970 in Mexico be played in the afternoon despite being warned about the danger to the players.

The commercial manipulation that resulted in Mexico being awarded the 1986 World Cup is a well-documented scandal.

Among over 70 recommendations made by the committee is one that calls for an investigation to be made into the financial involvement of Adidas with FIFA and the International Olympic Committee.

Another recommendation calls for the British Government to refer to the Office of Fair Trading the relationship between Mark McCormack's International Management Group (IMG) and various sports events to establish whether a monopoly exists.

IMG controls the appearances of such luminaries as Bjorn Borg, Vitas Gerulaitas, Arnold Palmer, Tony Jacklin, Sebastian Coe, Greg Norman and media personalities such as Angela Rippon, and even Henry Bliedfeld.

Appearing before the committee, Philippe Charrier, president of the International Tennis Federation, in referring to that body's relationship with IMG, reported that McCormack said to him: "You run your sport and I will do my business deals."

When Rosalyn Summers blinked back the tears as she mounted the rostrum to accept the women's figure-skating silver medal recently in Sarajevo, it wasn't just the loss of the gold that was lamenting. To quote one reliable source, her future income had just slumped from \$2 million a year to around \$200. They don't build show like Holiday on Ice around silver medalists.

If that all sounds a little far-fetched, then ponder the fact that McCormack offered ice-dancing marvels Christopher Dean and Jayne Torvill, \$5 million BEFORE they won the Olympic Gold. (They knocked it back, incidentally.)

Evidence also has been put before the committee that Trans World International, a subsidiary of IMG, possibly is

breaking IOC regulations over negotiations for the next Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988. Trans World's monopolistic machinations are to be challenged in court by the European Broadcasting Union. About Trans World, the committee said:

"It seems most undesirable that an organisation should be able to represent a number of top players, negotiate television, cable and satellite contracts and sell merchandising rights. The situation is pregnant with conflict of interests and cannot command public confidence."

What, you may well be asking, has all this to do with Australia and in particular, with Australian soccer?

Quite a lot, actually.

Our national team already has suffered as a result of the shameless manipulations by the supine World Cup organising committee that saw us shuffled off into limbo along with New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and Israel — making us the pariahs of the soccer world despite our having appeared, along with New Zealand, in a previous Final series.

And as a result of the ASF's involvement with West-Nally, an arrangement that is beginning to look less and less likely to be of great benefit to Australian soccer, our governing body virtually has surrendered control of the game to a commercial organisation.

So far, the only impact West Nally seems to have had on our game is the cancellation of several projected tours by overseas teams on the grounds that they would interfere with the national team's program. Can anyone honestly say, hand on heart, that our domestic game has been improved in any way by the involvement of West-Nally?

Here in Victoria, the VSF happily takes a hand-out from a sports goods manufacturer who, in return, demands that the federation's clubs use his products, irrespective of their quality, and equally irrespective of whether clubs have gained sponsorship of their own. Whatever happened to freedom of choice?

Let the Howell committee have the last word.

It has stated, categorically, that: "Governing bodies should guard against an over-reliance on sponsorship income and should maintain a wide portfolio. They should maintain a sympathetic and realistic attitude towards the financial interests of their leading competitors yet also take account of the interests of sports as a whole." Amen.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

The man they call "Mad Mick" has stormed on to the NSL stage with Sunshine-George Cross, with the forlorn hope that what he claims is unfair discrimination directed against him by referees, will be a thing of the past.

That sort of nickname reinforces referees' opinions that Mick McGorian is a trouble-maker. The man himself is a very aggressive player, which also doesn't help, but he's sick and tired of being singled out by the men in black.

And when you're suspended for a year after being found guilty of violent conduct, a suspension reduced on appeal to 10 weeks, you don't do your cause much good. McGorian was sent off, while playing for Frankston Pines against Box Hill late in 1982 and initially incurred a one year suspension.

"One of our supporters was watching our game against Juventus last week, before the Buffalo Gold Summer Cup final between Hellas and Croatia. He was standing next to the cup final officials and he heard them talking about me. One was saying things like: 'I would have booked him for that. I would have done him for that. That's the sort of thing I've had to put up with for the past couple of seasons,'" said McGorian.

McGorian is a fierce competitor. You won't see many strikers sliding in against defenders and winning the ball that's a part of his game.

"I've always wanted to win the ball as soon as I could. If it's there to be won I've just got to go in there and try to win it. I'm not about to change my game now just because some referees can't tell the difference between an aggressive tackle and a dirty tackle."

"The way things are with me now, another player can kick me as hard as he likes in the back and get away with it, but as soon as I get stuck in, I'm a marked man."

McGorian isn't just as aggressive. He's also a damn good player, totally unpredictable, fast, exciting and a real character. He'll miss some easy chances and stagger you by scoring when it least seems likely.

Sunshine-George Cross won't win the NSL

this year. It will have to battle for every point, and according to McGorian, every match will be like a cup-final.

"That's going to be great for our fans because there's going to be tremendous tension during most of our games."

"Aggression is going to be our biggest asset. There isn't a side that's more aggressive than us and when you're playing under a coach like Tommy Traynor, you simply can't let the man down. If you walk off the park after a defeat, he's the first person you think about. He's the one you feel sorry for. We've got to fight really hard for everything this year and we've got the lads to do it. I'm confident that we'll do well in the NSL."

Sunshine-George Cross will rely on basically the same players who took the club to a 5th placed finish in last year's Victorian State league. Despite the big jump in playing standards, McGorian won't be overawed.

"Once you're out on the park, reputations don't count for anything. If I can make a fool out of Alan Davidson then I'll make a fool out of him. I don't care what an opponent has done, what sort of reputation he's got, what sort of a star everyone else makes him out to be. It's just him and me and a football, and the better man will win."

"I don't cheat. There are a lot of players out here who just live off their names. They go through the motions for 90 minutes and get away with it because everyone says what good players they used to be."

McGorian, 27, came here from his native Liverpool in 1979, with the State League season just 10 games old. He'd played with Bootle amateurs in England, in the Cheshire League, alongside John Cullen, now with Frankston Pines, and Dave Griffiths, now with Croynod.

Slavia, then in State League, at first rejected McGorian in favor of bringing out Cullen and Griffith who had been with Everton. When

Slavia heard that McGorian was going to contact Melbourne Croatia, it had a swift change of heart but McGorian spent most of the remainder of the 1979 season playing in the Slavia reserves.

The following season was bad for Slavia, good for McGorian. The club was relegated. McGorian played in the seniors in every league game and was the club's leading scorer.

He thought that Slavia only would want to recoup the expenses it outlayed on him when he wanted to move to another club. He was wrong. Slavia slapped a \$5,000 transfer fee on his head.

McGorian wanted the fee lowered but Slavia wouldn't budge. Their stand-off dragged into the 1981 season, then Slavia suspended McGorian for five weeks, for allegedly being a bad influence on other senior players. The VSF backed Slavia. Had that five week suspension lasted in full McGorian would have been out of action until a week after the June transfer deadline and, if he wanted to keep playing, would have been forced to stay with Slavia on its terms.

The day before the deadline, Tony Vrzina, then coach of Slavia, arranged a deal which saw McGorian switch to Frankston Pines for a \$5,000 transfer fee.

The next threat to McGorian's career came in 1982 in a Dockerty Cup quarter-final match against Morwell Falcons McGorian, throwing his weight forward in an attempt to break out of a tackle by David Neal, broke his leg.

Just two games after recovering from this setback, McGorian's career again was in jeopardy. Near the end of the 1982 season, playing against Box Hill, he clashed with the Hillmen's stopper Donald Brownlie.

"It was a pretty niggly game to begin with. Big Brownlie caught me with an elbow which cut me about the mouth. I was going to wait for a tackle but I lost my temper and lashed



Mick McGorian (left) about to break clear of Juventus left back Harry Hird. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

out at him. I know better than to do that again."

McGorian was suspended for a year but appealed and only was put out of action for 10 weeks. Sunshine-George Cross signed him for \$4,000 early in 1983, even though he still had to serve his suspension.

"My first game for Sunshine-George Cross was against Polonia. I was only on the park for two minutes when Chris Bambridge booked me. That's the sort of thing I have to put up with from referees. I was disappointed with Chris, but he's one of the better refs, there's no doubt about that."

"A lot of the refs don't like our fans and you can tell that some refs really feel the tension at Chaplin Reserve. I remember one ref coming up to me in the dressing rooms last year, pointing to the door, and asking me if

that was the only way out of the rooms. You could tell that the guy was dead scared."

"If a referee stamps his authority on the game, there will be no trouble. You've got to understand the Maltese temperament. They're fanatic about their football. Sure, they're volatile, but remember that supporters have to pay \$6 to watch NSL games, so they deserve a bit of leeway. Back home you can watch Liverpool playing Manchester United and it'll only cost you \$4."

"I'm looking forward to the year, playing it front of good crowds. It's going to bring the best out of all of us."

"I just wish that people saw qualities in me other than aggression. My aim in football now is to be recognised as a good player, not just as a hard player."



ge star Dez Marton surges toward
ootsray J.U.S.T. midfielder Brian
'Donnell is in the background.



ie Vassallo of Ajax

Latif to make 'Cross lethal?

By
LAURIE
SCHWAB

Some promising
careers were
launched when se-
lectors named an
Australian all-star
under 15 squad from
the national
championships five
years ago.

Rod Brown, for example,
later transferred to Marconi
and played for Australia in the
finals of the 1983 World Youth
Championships in Mexico.

Graham Fletcher has been
scoring regularly in the
Sydney City Hakoah senior
team.

And Oale Latif, who has
been grabbing the headlines
for the past three years,
opened a new chapter of his
career when he transferred
from Melbourne Croatia to
Sunshine-George Cross for
\$10,000 last week.

He scored 12 goals for
Croatia last year, and 11 the
year before, yet due to com-
petition from Tommy
Cumming and David Brogan,
he still wasn't getting a regu-
lar game.

That's why he decided on



Ossie Latif (background) clashes with South
Melbourne Hellas right back Bobby Russell
during the recent Buffalo Gold Summer Cup.

the move — and all at Sun-
shine-George Cross are confident
that as Carl Gilder's fellow
striker, Latif will score goals
galore this year.

The 1981 season was Latif's
best so far. Playing for Kellor-
Austria, he notched 19 goals to
top the First Division
scorers' list and also be named
best and fairest player in the
Metropolitan League.

His two brothers, Tony 23,
and Sam, 27, both were at

Kellor-Austria at the same
time. They moved from there
to Royal Richmond when
Ossie, 20, switched to Croatia,
but now Tony, a midfielder, is
likely to follow Ossie to Sun-
shine-George Cross.

Ossie started with the Sun-
shine Heights Juniors, playing
there from under 10 to under
14 levels, before switching to
Footscray JUST Juniors.
During those years, he repre-
sented Victoria every year
from under 14 to youth level.



Flashback to 1982. The
Bannon brothers just have
linked up at Juventus of Mel-
bourne. From left: Ged,
Paddy, Vince.

Golden oldies

It is with the passing of the years that
legends are created, for it takes time to per-
form great deeds — and to perform them
consistently.

Young players may have their delicious but erratic
tastes of glory, but their star can shine brightly only to
expire within minutes.

It is the "oldies" who command the most respect, and
who best are able to stir the crowds.

Their deeds are well-documented, perhaps even em-
bellished through exaggeration.

After all, they have to be good to have lasted so long.
Makes you wonder, doesn't it, why older players get so
coy about their age.

Here then, is our list of the "soccer grand-dads" in the
National League:

*1 Pat Bannon	36 Juventus (Vic)	17.2.48
2 Dez Marton	35 St Geo Budapest	15.4.48
3 John Stoddart	34 Blacktown	1.5.49
4 Billy Rogers	34 Juventus (Vic)	16.7.49
5 Willie Vassallo	34 Green Gully	4.9.49
6 Jovan Djordjevic	33 Marconi	3.5.50
*7 Steve Kokoska	33 Melbourne Croatia	16.2.50
8 Dennis Boland	33 Footscray JUST	20.6.50
9 Bugsy Nyshokus	33 Adel City Juventus	28.6.50
10 Ken Boden	32 Sydney City Hakoah	5.7.50

11 Lou Denys	32 Green Gully	23.3.51
12 Billy Wilkinson	32 Brisbane City	4.4.51
13 Todd Clarke	32 Sydney City Hakoah	28.4.51
14 Bobby McGinn	32 Melita Eagles	15.5.51
15 Peter Ollernton	32 Preston Makedonia	20.5.51
16 Peter Blasby	32 Melb. Croatia	30.6.51
17 Norrie Pate	32 Sunshine-George Cross	10.10.51
18 Ken Wilson	32 Melita Eagles	30.10.51
19 Vince Bannon	32 Juventus (Vic)	9.11.51
20 Joe Watson	32 Sydney City Hakoah	1.1.52
21 Bob Mountford	32 Brisbane City	23.2.52
22 Ray Dunlop	31 Brisbane City	20.6.52
23 Neil McGachey	31 West Adelaide Hellas	19.7.52
24 Ron Tilsted	31 Wollongong	6.8.52
25 Alan Hughes	31 Brisbane City	17.10.52
26 George McMillan	31 Preston-Makedonia	27.10.52
27 Chris Dunleavy	31 Blacktown	30.12.52
28 Terry Butler	31 APIA-Leichhardt	8.2.53
29 David Brogan	31 Melb. Croatia	26.2.53
30 David Smallman	30 Green Gully	22.3.53
31 Col McAusland	30 Melita Eagles	21.5.53
32 Graham Honeyman	30 West Adelaide Hellas	30.5.53
33 Frank Liddell	30 Brisbane City	10.7.53
Bobby Hamilton	30 Brisbane City	10.7.53
35 Jim Tansey	30 Footscray JUST	8.8.53
36 Steve Bryant	30 Canberra Arrows	5.9.53
37 Jim Cant	30 Sydney City Hakoah	24.9.53
38 Phil O'Connor	30 Blacktown	10.10.53
39 Tony Henderson	30 Marconi	14.1.54
40 Murray Barnes	30 Sydney City Hakoah	16.1.54
41 Bobby MacPherson	30 Melita Eagles	25.2.54
42 Harry Hird	30 Juventus (Vic)	29.2.54

* Not currently playing in the NSL. Pat Bannon is seeking a
transfer, and Kokoska is in the process of making a comeback
— perhaps with Sunshine-George Cross.



Neil McGachey



Bob Mountford



Billy Rogers



Jovan Djordjevic

It's all relative, really

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

West Adelaide
Hellas plans to baffle
the NSL with science
this year. In an un-
precedented step,
new coach Sam Sa-
labasidis has decided
to incorporate his
version of the theory
of relativity into his
match plans.

Albert Einstein would turn
in his grave if he knew that his
theory now revolved around
the use of cousins George Kon-
standopoulos and John
Panagis as the wide mid-
fielders in Wests' 4-4-2 forma-
tion.

It's stretching truth to call
these teenagers cousins.
They've progressed from kick-
ing a ball about in their back-
yards to kicking it together for
Port Adelaide, Assuri and now
West Adelaide Hellas as well
as with South Australian
junior state teams and the
state youth team.

The parallel in their careers
only is broken by Konstan-
dopoulos, who stayed with Az-
zurri for a few more games
than Panagis, who was first to
pull on a West Adelaide Hellas
strip. That was last year and
while Panagis struggled to
overcome a bad hip injury in
the latter half of the season, it
was Konstandopoulos who
found himself a regular in the
first team, then coached by
Peter Kouzios, who had be-
come caretaker coach after
Alan Vest's departure.

If enthusiasm was the sole



George Konstandopoulos

prerequisite for success, these
youngsters would be seasoned,
senior Socceros.

"We'll go great this year
once we settle in. We've got
guys that want to play for the
club, not like last year," says
Konstandopoulos.

"We're better now because
we're so much fitter. We're
going to surprise a lot of
teams," says Panagis.

"And boy can we run. We
just run and run and run, all
day long, and that's where
we're going to wear down a lot
of these sides with older play-
ers," says Konstandopoulos.



John Panagis

"Yeah, and we're playing
better soccer too," Panagis
adds. "We're playing a lot of
one touch stuff. Salabasidis
says that the two main things
he wants are running and the
first time football. He doesn't
want us to dribble too much
but if we're in a one-on-one sit-
uation up front, then we use
our own discretion as to
whether we take the man on or
play the ball off."

Konstandopoulos reckons
that Salabasidis is a tough task-
master but he's hoping that
the effort he's putting into
training will be rewarded by
establishing himself as an NSL
player.

Konstandopoulos and
Panagis don't have the luxury

of mere attacking roles. When
a move breaks down and the
opposition goes forward, Kon-
standopoulos and Panagis
have to charge back to defend.

"We've got to be the first
ones to get back to help out the
goalkeeper, that's what I call
Neil McGachey, and Graham
Honeyman. My own personal
opinion is that Graham is
better in midfield but don't get
me wrong. Like Neil, he's a
brilliant player and he's doing
a great job for us in defence,"
says Konstandopoulos.

"Salabasidis is a good
coach," says Panagis. He's
not just a good commentator
of the game, he's also a good
demonstrator. At training we
work right through the way he
wants us to play."

If the enthusiasm of these
two stars of the future is in-
fectious, watch out for Wests
this year. Konstandopoulos
has no fears about the team's
future in 1984.

"We'll have a good run this
year, make no mistake about
that. The spirit around the
place is great," he bluffs.

Both Konstandopoulos and
Panagis are aiming to play for
Australia. Konstandopoulos,
who turned 19 last month, has
missed his chance at national
youth team level so now he
wants to make his mark as a
senior NSL player then, hope-
fully, as a senior Socceroo side.

Panagis turns 18 on Wednes-
day, March 28. He still reckons
that he can grab a spot in the
national youth team. If he
does he'll use that as the basis
for a future assault on a berth
in the senior Socceroo side.

Beograd a threat to Hellas

West Adelaide Hellas and Adelaide City Juventus have avoided each other in tonight's (Wednesday) Ampol Cup semi-finals, but are no certainties to qualify for next week's showdown.

Hellas, the only side to win all three preliminary games, faces the unbeaten Beograd in one semi and Adelaide City Juventus confronts Italian rival Azzurri in the other.

Azzurri shot down Juventus 1-0 in last year's final and must not be ruled out of Cup calculations.

Birkalla, which lost 2-3 to Juventus in the final preliminary match last week, proved

that the NSL team is vulnerable. And Hellas has achieved victories with a great deal of sweat.

But I am sticking with a Juventus-Hellas final which naturally will give the Ampol Cup its biggest crowd so far.

Azzurri qualified for the semi-finals with a tough 2-0 win over Croatia with Wally Bojczuk scoring in the 23rd



South Australian Ampol Cup

ventus gradually took control with goals from Peter Rankin four minutes before half time and Les Carter in the 67th minute.

Azzurri 2, Croatia 0, Goals - Bojczuk (23 min), Wild 50 (min).

Adelaide City 3 WT Birkalla 2, Goals - City: Mullen (14 min), Rankin (36 min), Carter (67 min); Birkalla: Pepper (12 min), D. Pankhurst (26 min).

minute and Paul Wilde in the 50th minute.

In the last game, Juventus fell behind to an early Birkalla goal from Mitchell Pepper, but then Joe Mullen equalised in the 14th minute.

Darryl Pankhurst put Birkalla ahead again, but then Ju-

AMPOL CUP STANDINGS

GROUP A						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Adel.	3	0	0	1	6	6
Azzurri	2	0	1	4	4	4
Croatia	0	1	2	5	1	1
Polonia	0	1	2	1	4	1

GROUP B						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adel C	2	1	0	3	5	5
Beograd	1	2	0	4	4	4
Para	1	0	2	3	1	1
Birkalla	0	1	2	3	6	1

MENO TOUTSIDIS

ANDREW DETTRE described the ASF's National Coaching Scheme as "sub-standard" in our February 22 issue. Dettre went on to say that "almost anybody can gain a senior certificate. . . . Yet it takes three to five years of part-time study to work in Holland, West Germany and other places. . . ."

"Nine long years wasted," said Dettre, commenting on the scheme first implemented in 1975.

Dettre claimed that English-oriented coaches have a monopoly on state

Director of Coaching positions. He said: "Surely the ASF should have woken up to this a bit earlier, rather than condone a system under which mates from the 'old country' have made the State Directors' posts a closed shop."

Dettre's broadside, aimed at what he described as "the inadequate standard of senior coaching in this country," came in a comment piece prompted by Sir Arthur George's call for a system of licensing coaches.

TIM WHITE and KEN KONTRA now have their say. . . .

OK, so now let's not be stupid

By KEN KONTRA

● Ken Kontra is a former Victorian State coach.

It is indeed pleasing to hear the virtual admission by Sir Arthur George that all is not well with our coaching set up, even if it took nine years to recognise this obvious fact!

The problem is that the ASF, through ignorance or negligence, has employed people who are not qualified, nor suitable to do a job for Australian soccer and any aspirations we may have had were doomed from the outset by consistently putting square pegs in a round hole.

I must say that Sir Arthur George's comments, while encouraging, do not inspire confidence with regards to the future. Licensing of NSL and First Division coaches may sound impressive but is this the real solution and the right start? I think not.

First of all, who would set the standards by which coaches would be judged and licensed? The ASF? I am afraid its record in the selection of coaches is not too impressive! Worthington and the "lads" perhaps? Well now, that would be a joke! Surely, if we want to improve the coaching scene, they ought to come under scrutiny themselves, rather than judge others.

Secondly, why start at the top? Why not include ALL coaches in the all scheme? After all, the future of our game depends on the supply of technically well prepared players, therefore the role of the junior coach cannot be over-emphasised.

We can import the best club coaches in the world, but their ability to perform would always depend on the material at their disposal.

Few senior coaches have the time, inclination or ability to look beyond their immediate squad, and even if they did, competitive pressures would hamper their effectiveness, and the historical short tenure of a club coach would, in most cases, prevent continuity.

By all means, let us import top coaches for our clubs, as Sir Arthur suggests (if we can afford them), but let us not lose sight of what I consider our number one priority, the development of juniors and the restructuring of the "coaching scheme", and the setting up of a system for the grading and licensing of all coaches, not only the top few.

In my next article I shall elaborate on this and put forward suggestions, which, I trust, may be of some assistance to the "decision makers".

So, we have an interesting problem on our hands, which could be summed up as follows: Top coaches need top players to be effective, and conversely, top players need a top coach to bring the best out of them, individually and collectively.

Bringing out top club coaches is only part of the solution and as we cannot afford to bring out teams of top players (nor is this desirable) for them to work with, therefore the development of local talent is of paramount importance.

Any scheme which does not recognise this fact is doomed to failure and unless we tackle the whole of the coaching set-up — seniors, juniors, developmental coaching etc. in an organised manner, we are applying band-aids where major surgery is required!

For the sake of Australian soccer, I hope that we have learned by our mistakes and tackle the problem realistically and totally, rather than in bits and pieces!

Vest set for NSW job



Alan Vest (pictured), is set to be appointed Director of Coaching for NSW. The NSW federation is expected to announce the appointment shortly and, should Vest be its man, he'll have beaten a field including Mick Jones, the former Blacktown and Manly coach, John Ward, ex-assistant coach at Sydney City Hawks, and Queensland youth team coach Dennis Ford. Vest is extremely well credentialed, having been director of Coaching in Western Australia and club coach at Newcastle and West Adelaide Hellas.

"After being a non-believer, I am now one of the strongest advocates of the Australian Soccer Federation coaching schemes."

The above is the leading paragraph of an article written by former Australian international player John Perin in the Adelaide "Sunday Mail" in May last year.

The words were written by a man far more qualified as an authority on the Australian National Coaching Scheme than Andrew Dettre who recently made the said scheme the object of his vitriolic pen in "Soccer Action".

Constructive criticism is acceptable in any walk of life but criticisms just for the sake of it is hard to take, especially when it is full of inaccuracies.

Andrew suggested that under the coaching scheme almost anybody can gain a senior certificate in a matter of weeks.

This is not only totally wrong, but an insult to the many people who have spent a long time and a lot of effort striving to gain the elusive qualifications.

Along with John Perin, many other international players have worked their way through the systems by attending courses so they could prepare for coaching careers.

Jimmy Rooney did not accept that appearing in Australian colours 100 times made him qualified to teach the game. He, like others before him, first attended the Preliminary Course (level Two) and when he successfully achieved this award, practised his coaching before trying to gain the Senior Award (level Three).

It was nothing more some other well known Australian international players who have attended coaching courses.

Players of the calibre of Col Bennett, Phil Dando, Mike Trebilcock, Alan Niven, John Doyle, Greg Woodhouse, Bruce Stowell, Vic Fernandez, John Gardner, John Yezendorn, Hammy McMeekan, Neil McGachey, Con Kammas, and Arno Bertogna hardly can come under the heading of "almost anybody" as suggested by Andrew.

Coaches who have attended coaching courses since the scheme's inception include Ken Kaiser, Kaz Kulak, Raul Blanco, Casey de Bruin, Harry Noon, Bobby Melachian, Ken Morten, and the man who took New Zealand to Spain for the 1982 World Cup Finals, John Ashhead.

Any of the above will testify that it took a lot longer than a few weeks to gain a senior certificate.

Andrew suggested that since the coaching scheme's inception in 1975, nine long years have been wasted.

The qualities of these I've already named hardly supports the use of the word "wasted" in terms of training coaches.

Let's look at another aspect of the game in the area of development. Youngsters are not born equal — indeed, they are unequal physically, mentally and psychologically.

It is a fact that those who are born and brought up in a soccer environment will have better opportunities to develop their talents than those who are not.

The great challenge of teaching, however, is to recognise potential talent and develop that potential to its fullest.

Our performance in the 1981 and 1983 World Cup surely improved our stature on the international scene. We can produce good players and good teams. I suggest that the National Coaching Scheme played its part in the development of those players.

Those of us who have attended national youth championships in recent years have witnessed the progress of young players.

Those players have come under the guidance of club coaches, state coaches and/or state directors of coaching in their earlier years.

Alan Davidson, David Mitchell, Rod Brown, Frank Farina, David Lowe, Steve Blair, and George Christopoulos are just a small sample of players I am talking about.

It is very noticeable in recent years that a number of our young players are attracting attention overseas.

And there can be no greater measure of our ability to develop the raw material for top class soccer.

Andrew's suggestion that mates from the "old country" made the State Directors' posts a closed shop is an indictment of the ability, of the respective State Federations, as employers.

The appointments are made by the board of management of each federation which vets applications on qualifications and the ability to perform the tasks.

Back to Perin's newspaper article. He said: "You've got to go out and learn from qualified men, put what you learn into practice, then keep looking for new ideas."

That's a sound philosophy from a man who admitted to being rather skeptical about the coaching scheme but who was sufficiently open-minded to give it a go and learn from somebody else.

No doubt, I've laid myself open to having to run the gauntlet of Andrew's vitriolic pen. Let's end with an open invitation to Andrew. Any time you are available, please come, as a non-participating observer if you like, and watch our coaching courses being conducted in Victoria. Acquaint yourself with the realities of the National Coaching Scheme and then criticise, constructively, if you so please.

Gatenby, and now a world-class guest?

By DEANNA DeUDICIBUS

For many visiting players, a change of climate, style and play and a new lifestyle are all part of the transition from an old life to a new.

Such is the case for Adelaide's newest import, Adelaide City's Mark Gatenby.

The 23-year-old Middlesbrough-born central striker is City's recruit from New Zealand's Christchurch Rangers.

Gatenby's connection with Australia is City's state back Neville Flounders whom he knew during his days with Whitty Town in England.

"I had known Neville for a number of years in England and when I went to New Zealand we kept in touch," he said.

"When he invited me to Australia for a holiday, City gave me the chance to train there and then sign up, so I couldn't knock it back."

City's decision to sign Gatenby was made with relative ease considering the year-long wait in England for his transfer to New Zealand.

"It was purely by chance that I saw an advertisement in a magazine looking for players with Rangers in New Zealand, so I applied."

"But I waited 12 months for a reply, then suddenly I had five days to fly out of England."

"I was out of work at the time so I grabbed the chance to go."

Gatenby expects to be with City for two seasons. According to Gatenby, opportunities for improvement in soccer in Australia are far greater than in New Zealand and he is also impressed with the standard of play.

"The standard here, as compared with New Zealand, is better overall," he said, adding: "and I've only seen Adelaide teams so far."

"As for the future, well, I would like to stay for about two years and enjoy it as much as I can."

"But I have no definite plans. I'll just wait and see how things work out."

Gatenby has his parents, two brothers and a sister in Middlesbrough and they are "Not too keen on football." He would like to return home to see them when he gets some money together.

He finds Australia's training methods have an affinity to those used in New Zealand, but different to those in England.

"I felt a lot more time was spent on the tactical side of football in England, but I haven't noticed much of it here or in New Zealand."

"City's style of play is so different too. They take the European influence where they play from the back, whereas in England they play with long balls down the middle — which is more fluent and better to watch, but you tend to lose possession, so I guess there's a good balance there somewhere."

According to Adelaide City's sports director Bob D'Ottavi, Gatenby has proved to be an excellent acquisition, but the Englishman has exhausted the club's import quota.

"We are allowed only two temporary visa players in Les Carter and Gatenby, so, our only other alternative is to bring in a guest player," D'Ottavi said.

D'Ottavi is presently playing a waiting game for the return from work commitments of City's coach Edmund Krefl.

"It's pretty hard to say but it could be around three weeks before Krefl comes back, but I won't be going anywhere until he's back for good."

"If and when I do go away, it will be to look for a top-world class player possibly from England, Italy or Poland."

"We've got a lot of fight in the young players we've acquired and have changed our style of play which will be much more attractive to watch and we are relying more on pure skill and fitness," he said.

Herbert goes to Uni



Ricki Herbert (pictured), a member of Sydney Olympic's National Cup winning side last year, has joined newly promoted New Zealand National League club Cowan's Auckland University.

With University, Herbert will be under the wing of Wally Hughes, coach of the Fiji team beaten 10-0 by Australia in Melbourne during the 1981 World Cup eliminators.

Appointed by the students last December, following two years out of the game, Hughes has been active in the transfer market, signing current international Herbert (who re-

turned to Auckland in order to participate in New Zealand's Olympic campaign), Peter Henry and Glen Adam.

Disillusioned after his Fiji experience, the Liverpoolian has now regained an appetite for coaching and appears to have the playing personnel to justify this newly acquired optimism.

— PAUL MOON

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Macleods to make Fawkner mighty?

Frank Macleod can't get over how friendly everyone is at his new club Fawkner. Bruno Cozzella and Cesare Fattore even showed Macleod the scars he left on their legs from their last encounter.

"A few people at Fawkner said that they were quite pleased to see me at the club. They said they'd rather have me playing with them than against them," said Macleod.

Macleod already has heard the rumor mongers' rumblings. It's only because he's the coach's brother that he was bought, they say.

"That sort of talk doesn't bother me. It was made quite plain to me from the start that Gus would be the coach and I would be the player and that's the way we would relate to each other at the club," said Macleod.

"I know that like every other player there, if I play poorly I'll get dropped. Gus has shown a lot of faith in me. He thinks that I can do a job for the club and I'm damn sure that I'm not about to let him or the club down.

"Being selected in 'Soccer Action's' State League Team of the Year last year was a big thing for me. It's the best honor I've won in soccer and looking at my name next to the names of some good players gave me a lot of confidence."

The Frank Macleod renowned for his vocal ability on the field, surely is not the same man so quietly spoken away from a soccer arena.

"I become completely absorbed in a game, totally involved for 90 minutes and I talk a lot. Off the park I'm quiet. I don't really know what happens to me when I'm playing. It's just one of these things."

The Macleod brothers — Frank, Gus and Heidelberg defender Don — are respected highly within Victorian soccer circles. While Gus, as a player with Green Gully Ajax, was winning top scorer honors in the 1981 State League, and Don, ex-Northington Forest, rapidly was gaining a reputation as one of the strongmen among NSL defenders, Frank was playing with less glamorous clubs like Albion Rovers and Park Rangers (now Kew City).

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

However, Frank had his best season in State League last year, with Albion, under the coaching of Hugh Murney, and team manager Joe Docherty, both close friends.

Albion was Macleod's first club here. The Glasgow-born, 29-year-old, played with Greenock Juniors in Scotland for six months before migrating to Australia with his wife in 1978. They stayed with Bobby Nisbet for six weeks. Nisbet was playing with Albion so Macleod came down and trained.

"It was a shock to the system at first. I hadn't been used to training so hard and it took me a long time to get fit."

However, it didn't take too long for Macleod to strike up close friendships at Albion, friendships which have endured. That's why his decision to leave and join Fawkner this year was so hard.

"The supporters at the club are magic. I'd never run them down. I had a bit of a run-in with the committee. I was upset with a few things but I'm going to go into that because I've still got a lot of good friends down there."

"I honestly can't see Albion improving, soccer-wise. Socially, I can see the club picking up but it's going to be very hard to lure good players down to a club that lacks sponsorship and has some management problems. Not that Albion is on its own in that regard."

Macleod only played two senior games with Albion in 1978. The following season, however, he found himself being used by coach Bill McArthur in a variety of positions.

"I didn't like Billy as a coach. He used me mainly as a marker but I kept playing in so many different positions that I never really settled in. Me and Billy had a few disagreements over this, and I soon learned how wrong it can be to speak back to some coaches when Billy dumped me at the end of the season. And I was a free player too! It wasn't as if I was on a big contract. Billy brought me in front of the committee and said that even though I was a free agent, the club was cancelling my registration because he didn't want me."

"But listen to this. Who should phone up Hugh Murney and Joe Docherty at Park Rangers and recommend me to them, but Billy McArthur? To this day I've never been able to work that one out."

Park Rangers were in the Second Division of the Metropolitan League when Macleod joined. He stayed with the club for three seasons then switched to Albion, not long after Murney and Docherty had moved there for the 1983 season.

But what's the attraction of Fawkner?

"It's got nothing to do with money and there's no big stars there. I just like what Gus is trying to do, to put a bit of dig into a skilful team. If the blend is right, we'll have a great year. Everyone at the club already is talking about making the top four and that's what we expect to do. I think that the top four probably will be Fawkner, Polonia, Morwell and Box Hill."

"There's no other side in State League with as much bite. I'm not going to make bold predictions about winning championships and the like. All I'll say is that there won't be a side in the league that we'll fear."



Fawkner defender Frank Macleod

Pacesetter Polonia kicks off with Cup

By MICK MITTEN

POLONIA 3 (Mitten 30th, Gibson 34th, Mila 69th) **BOX HILL 1** (Smith 43rd). **Buffalo Cup Final** at Laura Douglas Reserve, last Sunday. Crowd: about 250. Referee: Mike Gaut 8.

POLONIA: Lukac 7 — Liparski 6, Mila 7, Innes 7, A. Czapnik 6 — Gibson 34th, Tront 7, Gardiner 8, G. Czapnik 8 — Mitten 7, Przybyla 8. Coach: John Gardiner.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 3 — McPherson 6 (Hughes H.T. 7), Lawler 6, Tolmie (Keenan 34th 6), A. Roodhouse 6 — Azzopardi 6 (McLachlan 74th), McDonald 8, Underwood 8, White 7 — Smith 6, Verachia 8. Coach: Bill Murray.

Polonia is the team to beat in State League this year. That's something John Gardiner's side is going to have to live with, but it made an impressive start to 1984 by convincingly defeating Box Hill 3-1 to win the Buffalo Cup.

Box Hill had problems even before referee Mike Gaut signalled a start to this cup final. There were a lot of arguments in the Box Hill rooms before the match started, as to who should or shouldn't play, not exactly the recipe for a successful afternoon.

And within 25 minutes of the start, Polonia had acquainted itself with a curious spot on the Box Hill cross-bar, about two metres in from the left hand upright.

That spot acted like a magnet for shots from Greg Czapnik and Janusz Przybyla. Greg Czapnik played two great one-two's with Noel Mitten in the 16th minute, finally receiving the ball courteously of a cheeky Mitten backheel, only to shoot, left footed, against the bar.

Dave Gibson played the ball in to Przybyla in the 24th minute. The Polish striker slipped past a defender then struck the ball well, only to watch it smack against that strange spot on the bar and bounce clear.

A minute later Przybyla repeated the dose!



Polonia striker Janusz Przybyla

Any Polonia fears about a supernatural presence completely were erased in the 30th minute.

Gardiner and Joe Tront combined well with Tront playing the ball to Mitten, who knocked it forward and took off in pursuit. Don Lawler made an awkward, diving attempt to intercept but failed and Mitten sidefooted the ball past John McKinlay to make it 1-0.

Four minutes later a dreadful McKinlay blunder made it 2-0. Mitten had been winning balls in the air at the near post from corners. This time, Gibson struck his corner deeper and McKinlay, in trying to punch clear, watched in horror as the ball deflected off his knuckles and into goal.

Almost immediately, Box Hill coach Bill Murray reacted, but in a strange fashion.

Murray took off sweeper Ray Tolmie and on came Brian Keenan. One would have expected Keenan to play wide up front, as usual, but no. Keenan partnered Steve Smith in a more central attacking role while Peter Verachia went back into defence.

What made the change even

more confusing was the presence, on the Box Hill bench, of Dean Hennessy. One assumes that the reason Hennessy was bought from Albion Rovers was due to the move of John Gabrielson to Heidelberg and Don Brownlie's unavailability. Hennessy, of course, is a central defender. And a good one at that.

But back to the action.

A good break by Keenan on the left started the move leading to Box Hill's 43rd minute goal. Keenan delayed, then passed to Darren White who played the ball inside to Matt McDonald. The little Box Hill midfielder burst through a tackle then squared the ball to Smith who got the vital touch that made it 2-1.

It was a far more determined and aggressive Box Hill that came out in the second half, but Polonia's third goal took a lot of the fight out of the Hillmen.

With Box Hill still trying to organise itself defensively, Gardiner quickly took a free kick about 30 metres out, slipping the ball to Stefan Mila who struck it sweetly, into the bottom left hand corner of goal.

Can Collyer prove a point?

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Neil Collyer will be out to prove a point when he lines up for North Dandenong against Fawkner in the first main round of the 1984 Dockerty Cup at Smith Reserve on Sunday.

Collyer, unceremoniously dumped by Fawkner earlier this year, will want to prove some judges at Fawkner wrong and North Dandenong coach Rob Nelson, ever optimistic, is tipping a 1-0 upset win to his team.

"Do yourself a favor and tip a North Dandenong victory. One goal is all we'll need," said Nelson.

"I'm looking forward to taking on good State League opposition and quality players of the calibre of Peter Boyle, Ged Bannan and Ian Tuffield. We've got good players too and we'll give them a hell of a shock."

With Rob and Dave Nelson, Arthur McMillan and Steve McCombe in its line-up, North Dandenong will make a game of it, however. Fawkner should win. It outnumbers North on the basis of quality players and is just as well drilled.

Sunday sees State League clubs entering the Dockerty Cup for the first time this year. As usual, State League clubs haven't been drawn to play against each other and, as usual, the venues favor State League clubs. It comes as no surprise to learn that of the 14

State League clubs entering the Dockerty Cup on Sunday, seven are playing on their home grounds.

The engineering of Dockerty Cup draws to suit the stronger State League clubs is a disgrace and Metro clubs should be forcing their board of management to make an all out push at VSF board level to have this flagrant elitism stopped at last.

Metro sides with chances to upset more fancied opponents would appear to be Karingal United (which meets Albion), Springvale City (which meets Northcote), and East Brunswick (which meets Ringwood Wilhelmina).

BRIEFLY... Blackmail to fail?

Which prominent National Conference club, based in Melbourne, has threatened to keep its supporters away from an away match this weekend in order to force the home team to release its player to the visiting club?

We can't tell you in print, but according to the player this form of blackmail entered the bargaining between the two clubs last weekend.

But it won't work. The home club doesn't give a damn if the visiting club's supporters stay away in droves. Unlike the visiting club, the home club doesn't merely rely on gate income to see it through each year.

School for refs

The western branch of the Victorian Division of the Australian Soccer Referees Association will be starting a new school for prospective referees on Tuesday, March 13 commencing at 7 pm. The school will be held in the Sunshine Heights junior club Pavilion, Castley Reserve, Pellex Street, Sunshine, Melway Page 40, reference D2.

The school runs for 10 weeks, one night per week, two hours per night and is open to anyone over the age of 14. Interested parties should contact George Taylor after hours on 744-2797.

Croydon coup

Croydon City senior coach Colin Hester has successfully made a move last week to sign two new players, David Griffiths from Thomastown and Tommy Brewerton from Richmond.

Dockerty Cup matches THIS SUNDAY

At Laura Douglas Reserve
Albion Rovers V Karingal United, first game, 1.15 pm.
Broadmeadows V Sandringham City, second game.

At Raleigh Reserve
St Albans Dinamo V Hawthorn, first game, 1.15 pm.
Polonia V Altona City, second game.

At John Cain Reserve
Western Suburbs V Yallourn, first game, 1.15 pm.
Northcote V Springvale City, second game.

At Wembley Park
Wilhelmina V East Brunswick, first game, 1.15 pm.
Box Hill V Doncaster Rovers, second game.

At Egan Lee Reserve
Morwell Falcons V Coburg, first game, 1.15 pm.
Knox City V Thomastown, second game.

At Monterey Reserve
Doveton V Langwarrin, first game, 1.15 pm.
Frankston Pines V Lalor, second game.

At Gardiner's Craak Reserve
Altona Gate V Mornington, first game, 1.15 pm.
Croydon City V Yarraville, second game.

At Smith Reserve
South Oakleigh V Prahran Slavia, first game, 1.15 pm.
Fawkner V North Dandenong, second game.

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Catalonia, Bosnia, Georgia for the World Cup?

Really, it's none of my business; if it's fine with FIFA, it's okay with me, too. If the rest of the world meekly accepts an anachronism, with a straight face, why the hell should I care?

But I still find it amusing.

The matter I'm referring to, of course, is the continued idiocy of Britain fielding four separate "national" teams in World Cups and European Championships. The fact that none of them has managed to reach this year's finals in France make this lunacy even more pronounced.

Britain, as we all know, competes as such at the Olympics; there's no separate England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It's the same in other sports, too: world or European championships see a "British" entry. In soccer we have to have four.

The reasons stretch back into antiquity. Britain — you are told repeatedly — was the cradle of soccer and has always maintained four different, independent "associations." The fact that they don't represent independent countries, with border separating them, has never bothered anyone.

Ah yes, you'll hear — but they are different races: the English are far removed from the Welsh, not to mention the Irish or Scots. So they de-

serve to parade their national teams independently.

If that was true other, less impractical countries could step forward with similar arguments.

Czechoslovakia could field at least two teams, Czechs and Slovaks who are at least as far from one another as are the English and the Scots. Or what about the Spanish where the Catalonians and Basques, perhaps even the Andalusians, would feel entitled to the same treatment?

Belgium would definitely qualify for two teams, for the Flemish and the Walloon populations, the Swiss could demand three for their German, French and Italian citizens, the Yugoslavs could have several for the Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Slovenians and others while the USSR — with 270 million people — would surely be justified in fielding separate teams at least for Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians, Uzbekis, Armenians and another four or five.

But they don't; none of them does. Only Britain.

And I rather suspect that the others let them; it's the least painful

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN



sporting suicide; lemmings in soccer boots.

The way things are, none of the four British teams has an earthly chance of winning a World Cup or even European title on its own; it wouldn't have happened in 1966 either except for the benign approval of FIFA, allowing England to play ALL its matches

(even the originally unscheduled ones) at Wembley.

It would be quite a different story if Britain would field a team — a combined team, that is.

Just imagine: a combination of the best of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland together — the Robsons, Hoddles with the

Rushes, Whitesides, Souzannes and Stapletons.

That would be quite a team, enough to scare hell out of the Germans, Italians and South Americans.

But it won't happen; pride and a pointless mania for "independence" is likely to keep the four associations apart.

They are, after all, British — and different. They'd rather go down separately than succeed together.

One or two more major blows at World Cup level finally may induce them to pool their resources and apply for FIFA membership as Britain.

So we simply have to wait for that to happen.



SOCCER AROUND THE WORLD

MASOPIST NEW CZECH BOSS

By PAUL MOON

• Josef Masopust, star of Czechoslovakia's World Cup final team of 1962 — the year he was voted Europe's top player, is the new Czech national team coach.

Masopust has spent the last four seasons coaching in Belgium.

• Chelsea manager John Neal has signed another player who served him at Wrexham. Welsh international Mickey Thomas' \$150,000 transfer from Stoke City enables him to join previous teammates Eddie Niedzwiecki and Joey Jones.

• British soccer lost two leading administrators recently

with the deaths of English Football Association vice president Sir Harold Thompson and Scottish Football Association president Tommy Younger.

Goalkeeper Younger won many honors whilst playing for Hibernian in the 1950s, including 24 international caps.

• Soccerer David Mitchell scored his most important goal to date for Glasgow Rangers when heading home an equalizer five

minutes from the end of their Scottish League Cup semi-final first leg at Dundee United.

Mitchell came into the fray as a second half substitute.

• English Third Division club Burnley might well be renamed "Manchester City Old Boys", for no fewer than six members of their playing personnel, Dennis Tueart, Steve Daley, Tommy Hutchison, Kevin Reeves, Gerry Gow and Willie Donachie, plus manager John Bond were once on the Maine Road payroll.

• Fulvio Bernardini, one of Italy's best loved coaches, has died at the age of 78. Always an advocate of attacking soccer, he guided Fiorentina to the 1955-56 Italian Championship and took charge of the national side in 1974.

However, Bernardini will probably be best remembered as the man who groomed Enzo Bearzot for his current position.

• Ruud Geels, one of Holland's finest strikers during the past decade, has retired. The 35 year old, 20 times capped Geels scored over 300 goals in a career which saw him serve seven Dutch and two Belgian clubs.

• SV Hamburg have signed Norwegian international Erik Soler, as they attempt to boost their sagging fortunes. Soler attracted Manchester United's attention last year.

• Internazionale Milan have reportedly had a \$4,000,000 offer for Paul McStay turned down by Glasgow Celtic.

Although refusing to confirm these reports, Celtic manager David Hay is adamant McStay will remain at Parkhead.

• The Scottish FA is conducting an intriguing experiment by staging their cup quarter finals over two weekends.

The Dundee v Rangers and St Mirren v Morton ties will be played on the morning of March 11, Australian time and the Aberdeen v Dundee United and Motherwell v Celtic games seven days later.

• A crowd of 85,000, which produced Italian League record receipts of \$768,000, saw Juventus beat AC Milan 4-0 at San Siro Stadium on February 19th.

• England will play Brazil in Rio de Janeiro on June 10th, as part of their South American tour. The dates of other proposed games, against Uruguay and Paraguay have yet to be confirmed.

• After more than a year out of the game, former New Zealand national team coach John Adshhead has been appointed manager-selector of the Auckland provincial FA.

• Liverpool is expected to be a ghost city on March 26th (Australian Time), when the two local clubs Liverpool and Everton contest the Football League Cup final at Wembley.

• A penalty, scored in injury time before 40,000 of their supporters, enabled Serie C side Bari to hold Juventus to a 2-2 draw and thereby win a place in the Italian Cup quarter finals on a 4-3 aggregate score.

The other clubs through to the last eight are: Sampdoria, AC Milan, Torino, Udinese, AS Roma, Fiorentina and Verona.

• The French Cup also produced a shock, with second division Cannes beating Bastia of the First Division 7-3 on aggregate.

• The career of Rainer Bonhof, one of West Germany's 1974 World Cup winning side, appears to be over.

Officially registered as a "Sports invalid", he has been awarded a testimonial

at the end of the current season by the West German federation.

Capped 53 times for his country, he also served Cologne, Valencia, Borussia Mönchengladbach and Hertha Berlin.

• Jorge Aravona of Universidad Catolica is Chile's Player of the Year. He was also the Chilean First Division's leading goalscorer.

• FIFA has granted the Brazilian federation permission to make a replica of the original World Cup trophy, which was stolen by thieves last year.

• Brazil's federation has scrapped plans for a six nation tournament to commemorate their 70th jubilee in June.

FIFA informed the Brazilians that not only had they neglected to seek sanction from the international body to conduct the tournament, but would find it unforthcoming as the scheduled dates clashed with the European Championship finals in France.

• Italy's superteam, Juventus, suffered one of their most embarrassing defeats when losing 1-2 at home to Serie C side Bari in the first leg of their Italian Cup tie. Luckily for Juve, they will have the opportunity to redeem themselves in the return in Bari.

• After being on the transfer list for four months, England international striker Paul Mariner has, at last, obtained a new club. Arsenal have paid \$300,000 for the 33 times capped player.

• Former Arsenal and Scotland centre back Frank McLintock has been appointed manager of English third division club Brentford. His only previous experience of management was gained at Leicester, where he was sacked after less than a season in charge.

McLintock's assistant at Griffin Park will be ex Cambridge United boss John Docherty.

• Billy Bremner, the ex Leeds United and Scotland captain who manages English fourth division side Doncaster Rovers, has been fined \$1,000 by the Football Association for "using foul and abusive language."

The fine followed an outburst directed at the referee who officiated in Rovers' 1-2 defeat at Swindon on December 3rd.

Germans win, Brits lose

West Germany beat Belgium 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in a friendly in Brussels last week.

Scorer: Voeller (75th min — penalty).

Attendance: 23,000. Meanwhile France beat England 2-0 (halftime 0-0) in a friendly international in Paris.

Scorer: Platini (58th and 72nd mins). Attendance: 48,000.



Paul Mariner



Ruud Geels



John Adshhead



Eric Gerets



David Mitchell

Gerets paid \$7600 bribe to win title

The Brussels public prosecutor's office says officials and players of two top Belgian clubs arranged bribes to fix the match which gave Standard Liege the 1981-2 Belgian league championship.

A spokesman said Eric Gerets, Captain of the Belgian national team and Standard captain in 1981-2, and two Standard officials had confessed to paying a 420,000 franc (about \$7,600) bribe to Waterschei to secure victory in that season's decisive final match.

A Waterschei player also had admitted that his club received the money.

Gerets, who now plays

for the Italian club A.C. Milan, was detained by police when he arrived to train at the national stadium in Brussels for a friendly match between Belgium and West Germany.

He was questioned for several hours before being released early in the morning.

Bribery was first suspected when a magistrate investigating a sep-

arate case of alleged illicit transfer payments for Belgian soccer players discovered unexplained payments to Gerets in Standard's accounts.

One of Belgium's top bankers, Eddy Wauters of Kredietbank, and a former soccer international, Jef Jurion, have been charged with tax fraud in the transfers case. Both men were de-

tained for three weeks but released this month.

After the confessions, the inquiry will now focus on the "black money" used for the bribes.

Fixing sports matches is not illegal under Belgian law but the National Soccer Union imposes stiff penalties on offenders.

Standard trainer Raymond Goethals is said to have asked club

chairman Roger Petit to give Gerets the money. He handed it over to Waterschei just before the match which Standard won 3-1 to snatch the title from rivals Anderlecht.

Goethals and Petit admitted their roles in the case and Roland Janssens of Waterschei acknowledged that his club received the money.

None of the four men has been charged.

\$7.8 mil. offers for Robson, Rummenigge

The Italians have two dominating characteristics where soccer is concerned — determination and lots of cash.

Reflecting this, at least four Italian clubs have been pressuring England and Manchester United captain Bryan Robson over the past few weeks to join them.

The bidders have pushed their price above two million stg (\$3.1 million).

Inter Milan called Robson at home this week and was not

satisfied when Robson said his club deals with all offers.

However the Italians seem to have money to burn at the moment as they are also trying to sign the West German king of soccer, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, with a \$4.7 million package.

The Bayern Munich striker would receive a basic salary of \$850,000 apart from numerous other perks.

Perhaps some arrangement with the Italians could be made since one other team ru-

moured to be interested in the 28-year-old Rummenigge is Robson's Manchester United.

Robson is expected to be a ghost city on March 26th (Australian Time), when the two local clubs Liverpool and Everton contest the Football League Cup final at Wembley.

• A penalty, scored in injury time before 40,000 of their supporters, enabled Serie C side Bari to hold Juventus to a 2-2 draw and thereby win a place in the Italian Cup quarter finals on a 4-3 aggregate score.

The other clubs through to the last eight are: Sampdoria, AC Milan, Torino, Udinese, AS Roma, Fiorentina and Verona.

• The French Cup also produced a shock, with second division Cannes beating Bastia of the First Division 7-3 on aggregate.

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Bryan Robson

MELBOURNE CROATIA DANCE

Saturday March 10, at the new Shopping Centre, Sunshine Plaza, Hampshire Road, Sunshine at 7 pm.

During the evening, the Croatia club raffle will be drawn. Admission \$10.00 per head, smorgasbord provided.

For further information please ring Mr Caeljar on 311 7359 (business) or 497 3743 (home) or Mr Grbin on 68 2108 (home).

New FIFA pressman

The International Football Federation (FIFA) has appointed Swiss sports journalist Guido Tognoni as press officer.

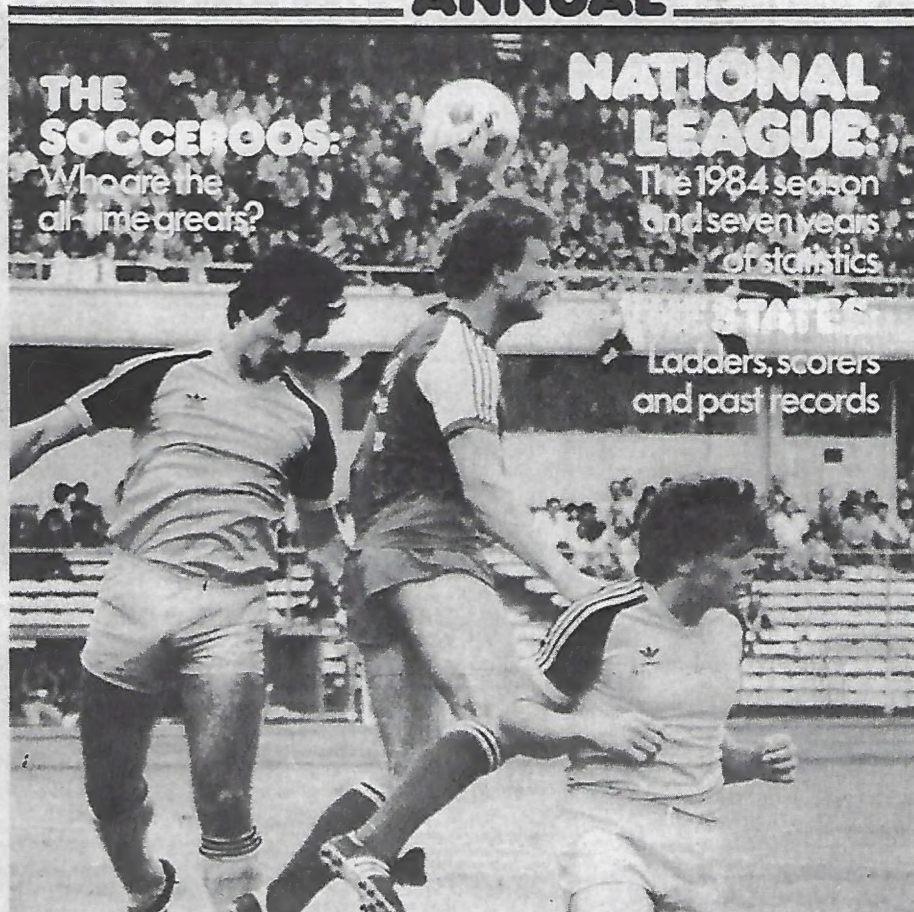
Tognoni, 34, who took over on March 1, replaces Luxembourg-born Rene Courte, whose contract was not renewed in January 1983.

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NATIONAL SOCCER ANNUAL

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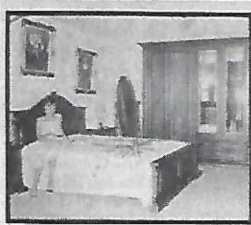


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- ★ NATIONAL CUP TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY OLYMPIC
- ★ NSL COACHES ROSTER, 1977-1984
- ★ EVERY GOALSCORER IN NSL, NATIONAL CUP AND TOP FOUR SERIES, 1977-1983
- ★ FULL VOTING LIST FOR NATIONAL BEST PLAYER AWARD
- ★ MERLION CUP — ANALYSIS OF THE SOCCEROOS' TRIUMPH
- ★ THE NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM — ITS BRILLIANT 1983 CAMPAIGN
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- ★ METROPOLITAN LEAGUE BEST AND FAIREST VOTING (VIC)
- ★ ALL VICTORIAN LADDERS OF 1983
- ★ SPOTLIGHT ON THE LATROBE VALLEY
- ★ MELITA, CROATIA AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN NSW
- ★ ALL NSW LEAGUE AND CUP SCORERS
- ★ SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LADDERS, ALL-TIME HONORS ROLL AND ROTHMANS MEDAL
- ★ WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LADDERS, HONORS ROLL, SCORERS AND PAST WINNERS
- ★ SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH AUSTRALIA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAM
- ★ TASMANIA — ALL SCORERS, LADDERS, ROTHMANS MEDAL VOTING
- ★ NORTHERN NSW — LADDERS AND SCORERS
- ★ QUEENSLAND HOW THEY FINISHED IN '83, PLUS QUEENSLAND'S DEFEAT OF NSW
- ★ REVIEW OF 1983 IN THE GREEK AND YUGOSLAV LANGUAGES



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La 'Prima Office Furniture' vi invita a venire ad applaudire la squadra bianconera per l'esordio in campionato.

**Domenica 4 Marzo . . . ore 3 pm . . . Olympic Park No. 2 B.U.
Juventus v Melbourne Croatia, Forze Juve!**

E così la Juventus ha iniziato la sua grande avventura in Lega Nazionale con una bella vittoria.

E poiché chi ben comincia è alla meta dell'opera, tutti i tifosi juventini (oltre che comitati, tecnici, e giocatori) hanno un ottimo motivo per rallegrarsi. Il fatto, poi, che le due reti siano state messe a segno dal nuovo acquisto Sweeney, dovrebbe essere un ulteriore motivo di soddisfazione per tutti.

E, siamo onesti, c'è da scommettere che qualcuno vorrebbe aggiungere che chi scrive queste note dovrebbe rimangiarsi quanto ha scritto nelle ultime settimane sulle limitazioni della squadra e sulla sterilità dei due strikers acquistati quest'anno.

Innanzitutto bisogna precisare che chi scrive ha le sue vedute ed ha il dovere di esporle secondo i dettami della critica costruttiva; poi bisogna aggiungere che in certi casi, e la Juventus è il caso più classico, chi scrive sarebbe felicissimo di essersi sbagliato nel criticare la squadra in generale ed i due attaccanti in particolare; quindi bisogna aggiungere che in tale critica si era anche detto che "l'acqua che non ha

piovuto potrebbe anche stare ancora in cielo"; e per finire è bene tener presente che battendo la Croatia per 2-1 domenica scorsa la Juventus non ha poi fatto un granché per dimostrare che le critiche non erano, e non siano ancora, valide e fondate.

Abbiamo sempre detto che il Croatia è la squadra contro la quale la Juventus fa sempre bella figura e con la quale ha vinto molto più di quanto abbia perso negli ultimi anni del campionato statale, quindi averla battuta un'altra volta non è una cosa tanto eccezionale.

Il fatto che Ward abbia dato a Sweeney tutte e due le palle con le quali questi ha segnato non è tale da mandare nessuno in visibilo perché due passaggi indovinati e due reti messe a segno da posizioni favorevoli non fanno primavera.

È innegabile che la Juventus non abbia rubato nulla al Croatia, specialmente giocando senza alcuni titolari, però è bene non illudersi che la vittoria di domenica abbia risolto tutti i problemi della Juventus. Battendo il Croatia è una cosa, visto che è stato molto spesso battuto (due volte nel campionato dell'anno scorso quando aveva più o meno gli stessi giocatori di oggi), battere Hellas, Preston e via di seguito è un'altra cosa.

Il compito della Juventus domenica prossima potrebbe essere ancora più facile perché l'avversaria di turno, il W. Adelaide Hellas è meno consistente del Croatia.

I greci di Adelaide hanno una squadra composta principalmente da giovani che dovrebbero inchinarsi di fronte ai più esperti giocatori in bianconero.

Le possibilità di essere a quattro punti dopo la seconda settimana sono perciò ottime e due vittorie consecutive all'inizio della Lega Nazionale faranno molto per portare alle stelle lo spirito dei giocatori, dei dirigenti e dei tifosi.

Nel frattempo qualche santo dovrebbe spuntare sull'orizzonte, ed il primo dovrebbe essere Vince Bannon che probabilmente per domenica avrà scollato gli effetti dell'infortunio alla gamba subito alcune settimane fa, peccato, da una parte, che il suo rientro significherebbe probabilmente l'uscita di Frank Geremia anche se il ragazzo italiano ha dato una prova molto positiva contro il Croatia; è difficile però che Vince venga schierato in altro che la sua posizione di terzino destro anche se ci sarebbe urgente bisogno di un difensore centrale per poter rinviare a centrocampo Dowie e Rogers.

Intanto le possibilità che la Juventus acquisti Yankos e Campbell dall'Heidelberg sembrano essere svanite dopo che il doppio acquisto sembrava quasi certo la settimana scorsa.

In conclusione, c'è da rallegrarsi del buon inizio della Juventus, c'è anche da aspettarsi che domenica prossima batterà anche il West Adelaide all'Olympic Park numero due . . . ma bisogna aspettare altri incontri più impegnativi, come quello della terza

Juventus comincia bene

VIVA ITALIA!
with ROCKY DI ZIO



giornata contro il Canberra fuori casa, per poter avere delle indicazioni più realistiche sulla vera forza (o debolezza) della squadra di Margatius.

IL MARCONI PERDE MA VINCERÀ MOLTO

Dando uno sguardo panoramico all'intero campionato nazionale, i risultati della prima giornata sono stati discreti per le squadre italiane.

La Juventus di Adelaide ha battuto la concittadina del West Adelaide per 1-0 senza però aver compiuto nulla di eccezionale; il Brisbane City è stato battuto anche per il minimo scarto dal Brisbane Lions e l'Apia ha battuto il Marconi. Potrebbe sembrare strano ma proprio la squadra perdente del derby italiano di Sydney sembra quella che ha le carte più in regola di tutte italiane con la sua collezione di giovani campioni che quest'anno dovrebbero esplodere.

IL SOLE SEMBRA SPLENDERE A FAWKNER

Intanto a Fawcner comincia a spuntare l'alba di un'altra stagione nella Lega Statale e dai bagliori che si cominciano ad intravedere sembra che sarà una stagione di sole.

Il nuovo allenatore Gus McLeod sembra stia riuscendo a mettere assieme il tipo di squadra che dovrebbe far tremare tutte le avversarie del campionato. Ed il motivo principale di questo felice stato di cose è che, secondo "Big Gus", il comitato gli ha dato tutto l'appoggio possibile ed immaginabile e la sicurezza che sta avendo a che fare con "gente seria, capace e impegnata".

"Big Gus" deciderà definitivamente la settimana scorsa quali saranno i giocatori della rosa e quali potrebbero far le valigie, ma è contentissimo del materiale umano che ha a disposizione; i cinque nuovi acquisti sono di suo completo gradimento: Frank McLeod ("non l'ho comprato solo perché è mio fratello") ci tiene a precisare Gus), Ged Bannon, Peter Boyle, Neil Garvey e Gary Hobson sono tutti giocatori di classe e di esperienza; Rino Lia è un giovane di grandi doti ed immense possibilità.

Dei giocatori già in forza al Fawcner, Gus è molto contento di gente come Tuffield, Palinkas, Terzini, giacché; e Cozzella pensa che i giovani Sanpili e Palmariotti debbono ancora lavorare duro ma possono essere in breve tempo

dei titolari; di cavallari pensa che ha delle ottime doti . . . e naturalmente non vuole scendere in altri dettagli prima di dare la lista definitiva della "rosa" al comitato.

Comunque assicura di essere felice e contento e fiducioso che con i giocatori che ha a disposizione il titolo di campione statale è alla portata del suo Fawcner. Naturalmente sempre gli occhi aperti se il mercato offrirà qualche buon giocatore a buon prezzo, ma anche come stanno le cose adesso "Big Gus" si ripromette di fare molto bene nel suo primo anno come allenatore; e ci assicura anche che a 33 anni non si farà vincere dalla tentazione di giocare con il Fawcner (fra l'altro non ancora il trasferimento come giocatore dal Croydon).

Una cosa sola gli dispiace: la possibilità che Les Gooney non potrà più giocare a causa del ginocchio malandato e dell'età che rende peggiore questo problema fisico. Ma intanto Les assumerà probabilmente la carica di allenatore delle riserve, poi si vedrà. In bocca al lupo, "Big Gus".

A Mitre ball to be won!

Here are this week's question, the answers to which can be found in our National Soccer Annual, now on sale at your newsagents, price \$1.50. The first correct entry received each week wins a Mitre Soccerball and all weekly winners go into the barrel for a grand prize to be announced later, which will be drawn at the end of the season.

Send your entries to: Soccer Action Quiz, 603 Little Lonsdale St., Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

This week's question:

1. Who was the leading scorer in the West Australian Third Division last year, how many goals did he score, and what club did he play for?

2. Which club has won the most South Australian Ampol Cups?

3. Barry Salisbury made two appearances for the Soccerroos. Against what touring team and in what year?

4. How many goals did Alan Whittle score in National League competition?

5. Name the player who scored for St. George in its 3-1 win over Sydney City in the 1981 NSL Top Four series final.

Last week's winner is: PAT BOCCIA, 389 Canning Street, North Carlton, 3054. The answers: 1. South Melbourne Hellas 2. Central Coast 3. Russell Stewart, Danny Wright, Bobby Hamilton 4. Scott Dennon 5. Stuart Mellings.



Reno Lia (Fawcner)

Stowell slams Arok

Queensland coach Bruce Stowell has announced his squad to prepare for the interstate clash with New South Wales at Brisbane's Perry Park on April 29.

Stowell said the team would be trimmed to 14 before the match.

Stowell said he was incensed at statements attributed to NSW coach Frank Arok that the Australian team for the coming internationals in June would be made up mainly of NSW players.

"How can he make such a comment before this match? If we are to believe him and Queensland defeats NSW, where will that leave him and the Australian team?"

The squad named is:

Goalkeepers: Kim Wishart (Brisbane City), Stuart Woodruffe (Mt Gravatt).

Defenders: Steve Perry (Brisbane City), Frank Liddell (Brisbane City), Peter Tokesi (Brisbane City), Alan Niven (Brisbane Lions), Alan Hunter (Brisbane Lions).

Midfielders: Frank Pimblett (Brisbane City), Ken Swan (Brisbane City), Bobby Hamilton (Brisbane City), Russell Stewart (Brisbane Lions).

Forwards: Bob Mountford (Brisbane City), Gary Bromfield (Brisbane City), Danny Wright (Brisbane Lions), Phil Redmond (Brisbane Lions), Garth Moloney (Grange Thistle).

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SOCCER AT ITS BEST

THIS WEEKEND MARCH 10-11



AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

Leichhardt v Melita Eagles



Peter Tradnick

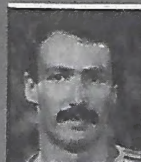
at Henson Park
3pm Sunday

NO PREVIOUS
NSL RESULTS



Howard Tradnick

Marconi v Blacktown



John Spanos

at Bossley Park,
3pm Sunday

PREVIOUS NSL
RESULTS
MARCONI 3 WINS
1 DRAW



Robert Whitley

Newcastle v Preston



Joe Senkalski

at International Sports
2.30pm Saturday

PREVIOUS NSL
RESULTS
NEWCASTLE 3 WINS
PRESTON 2 WINS
1 DRAW



Gary Cole

Penrith v Sydney Croatia



Ian Hunter

Cook Park
3pm Sunday

NO PREVIOUS
NSL RESULTS



Brett Wood

St George v Canberra Arrows



David Sloan

St George Stadium
3pm Sunday

PREVIOUS NSL
RESULTS
ST GEORGE 5 WINS
CANBERRA 3 WINS
4 DRAWS



Anthony Franken

Wollongong v Sydney City



Larry Gaffney

at the Showgrounds
3pm Sunday

PREVIOUS NSL
RESULTS
SYDNEY CITY 5 WINS
1 DRAW



Joe Watson

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Adelaide City v Melbourne Croatia



Sergio Mella

at Norwood Oval
2.30pm Sunday

NO PREVIOUS
NSL RESULTS



Steve Gajovic

Brisbane Lions v Sydney Olympic



Danny Wright

at Richlands Stadium
3pm Sunday

PREVIOUS NSL
RESULTS
OLYMPIC 2 WINS
LIONS 1 WIN
4 DRAWS



Peter Reskopoulos

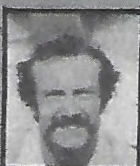
Footscray v Brisbane City



Zvezka Lujic

at Schintler Reserve
3pm Sunday

PREVIOUS NSL
RESULTS
FOOTSCRAY 6 WINS
BRISBANE CITY 3 WINS
5 DRAWS



Steve Perry

Green Gully v South Melbourne



Stuart Cannell

at Gully Reserve
3pm Sunday

NO PREVIOUS
NSL RESULTS



Alan Davidson

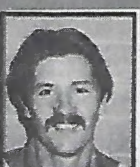
Juventus v West Adelaide



Andrew Zinni

at Olympic Park No.2
at 3pm

NO PREVIOUS
NSL RESULTS



Graham Honeyman

Heidelberg v Sunshine George Cross



Scott Peterson

at Olympic Village
3pm Sunday

NO PREVIOUS
NSL RESULTS



Roger Bain